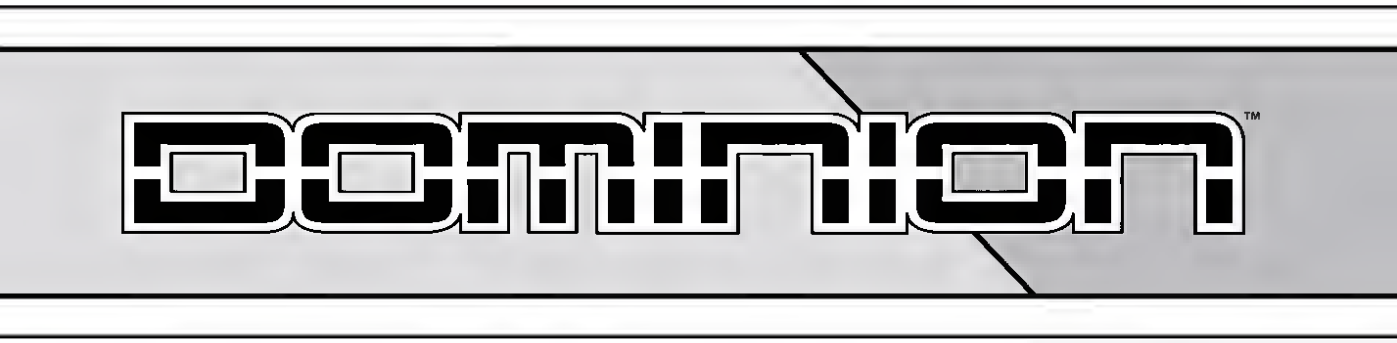
士郎正宗

DOMINION™

SHIROW MASAMUNE


DOMINION™

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art director LIA RIBACCHI

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DOMINION™

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lettering by TOM ORZECHOWKSI
[with SASQUATCH]

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PHANTOM OF THE AUDIENCE

219 THE MINI-TANK

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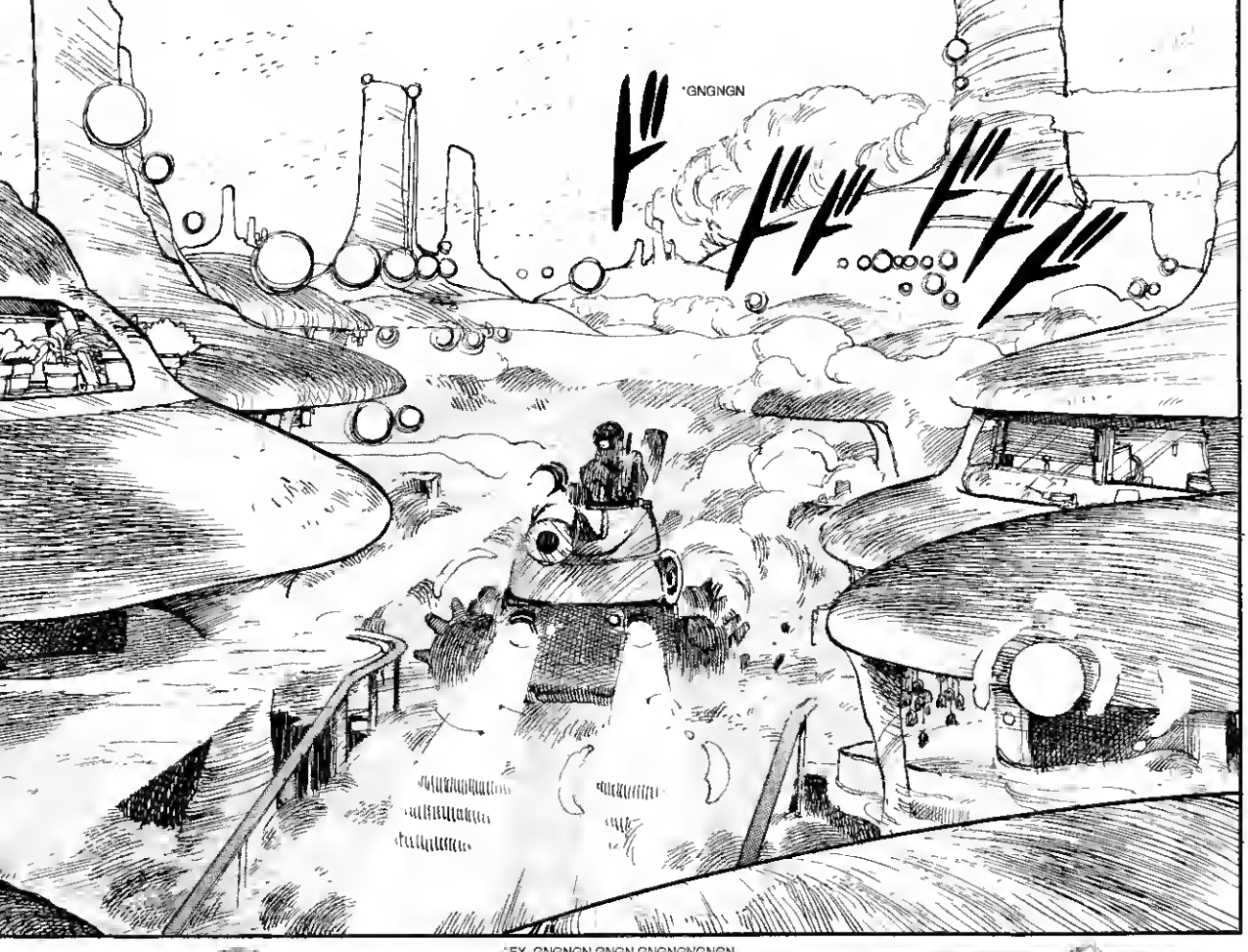
DOMINION™

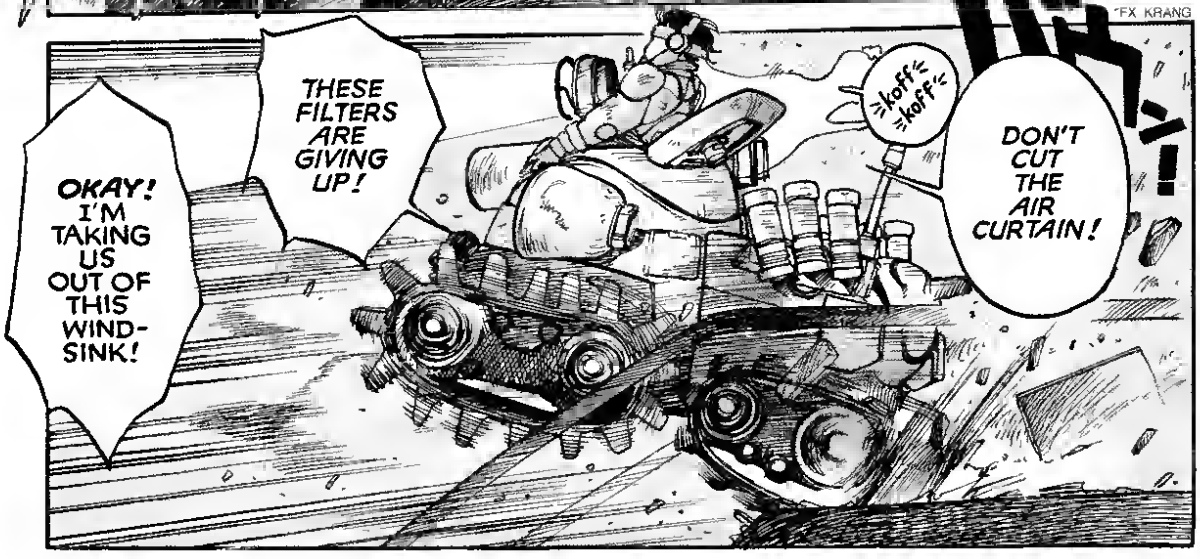
PART I

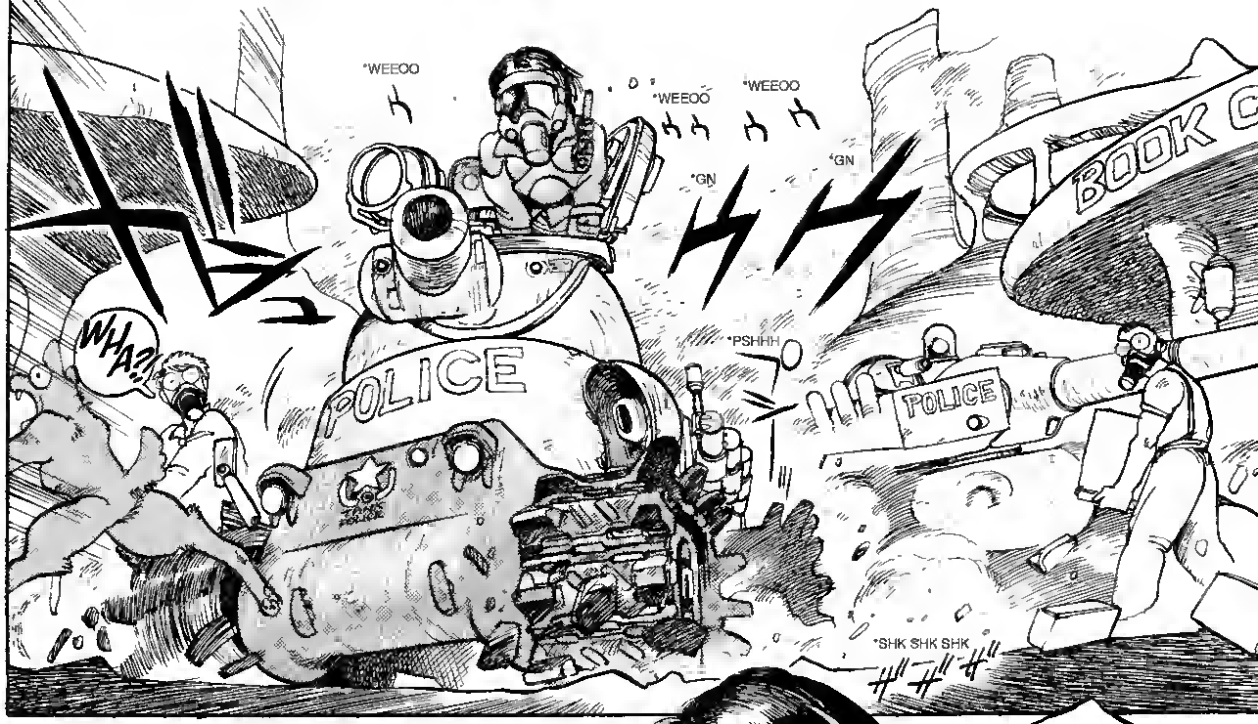
AND THIS SPACE,
THAT WHICH THEY CALL "TERRA"...
WAS OF A FORM MOST RARE AND MYSTERIOUS...
ESPECIALLY THOSE SURFACE PROJECTIONS,
"HUMANOID" BY LABEL,
WHICH ENGAGED CEASELESSLY IN THE MOST
REMARKABLE BEHAVIOR...
FROM: "The SPACE DIARIES of GREENPEACE CROLIS"
GNGN GNGN

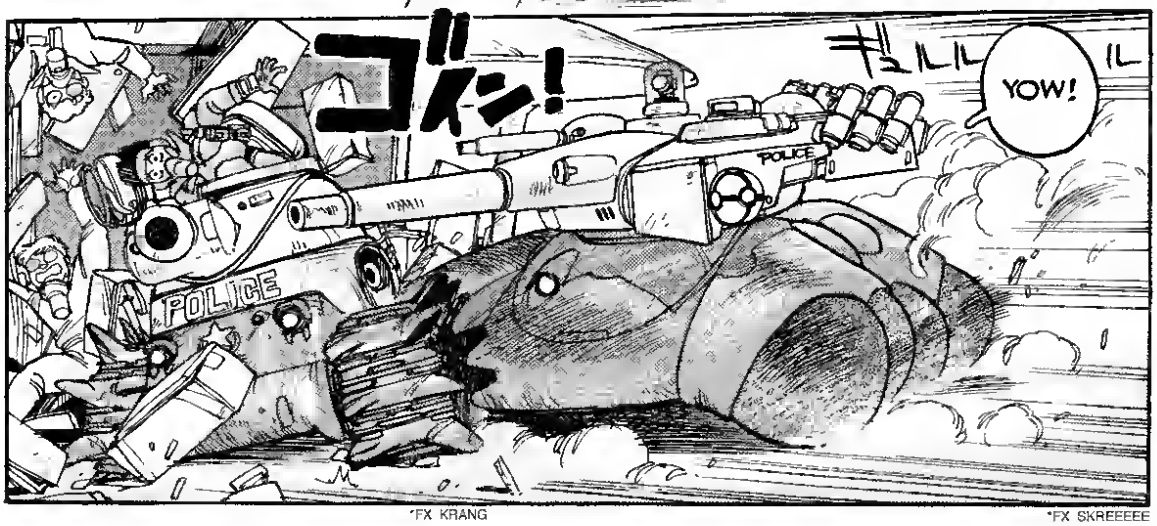


*FX GNGNGN GNGN GNGNGNGNGN

*FX KRANG







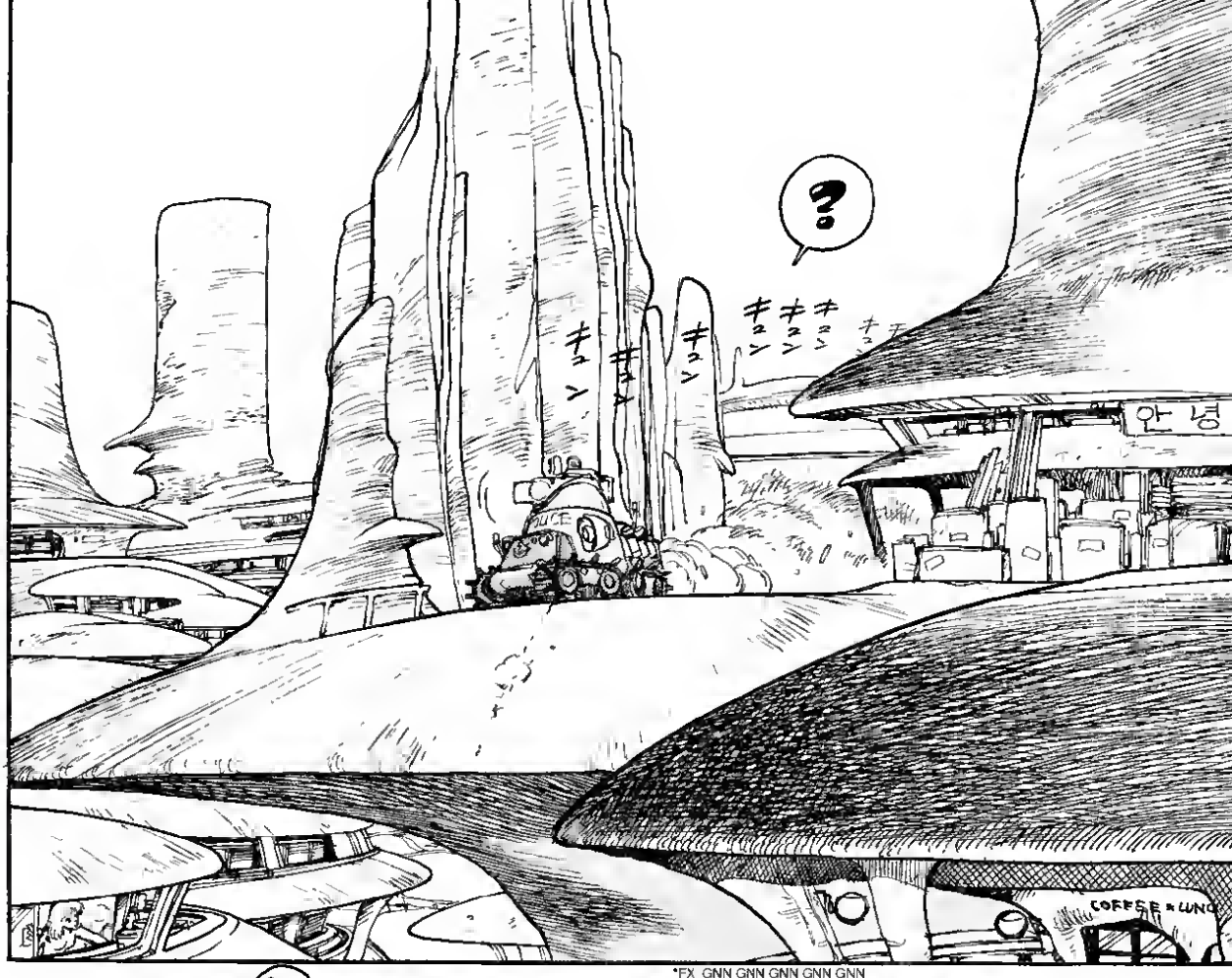
*FX KRANG

*FX SKREEEEE

KSHANG KSHANG
HEY! HE'S COMING!
"JUNK"...? YOU'RE THE "PIECE OF JUNK!!"
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP DRIVING THAT PIECE OF JUNK AROUND ON THE STREETS!
ばくん!
*KCHAK
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, BRENTEN!
MY... MY BEAUTIFUL ARMOR! SCRATCHED!
POLICE
*bag GET RICH QUICK
YA HA HA!
Heh. heh. heh!
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG
EEEK!
*KNCH
SKREEEE!
POLICE

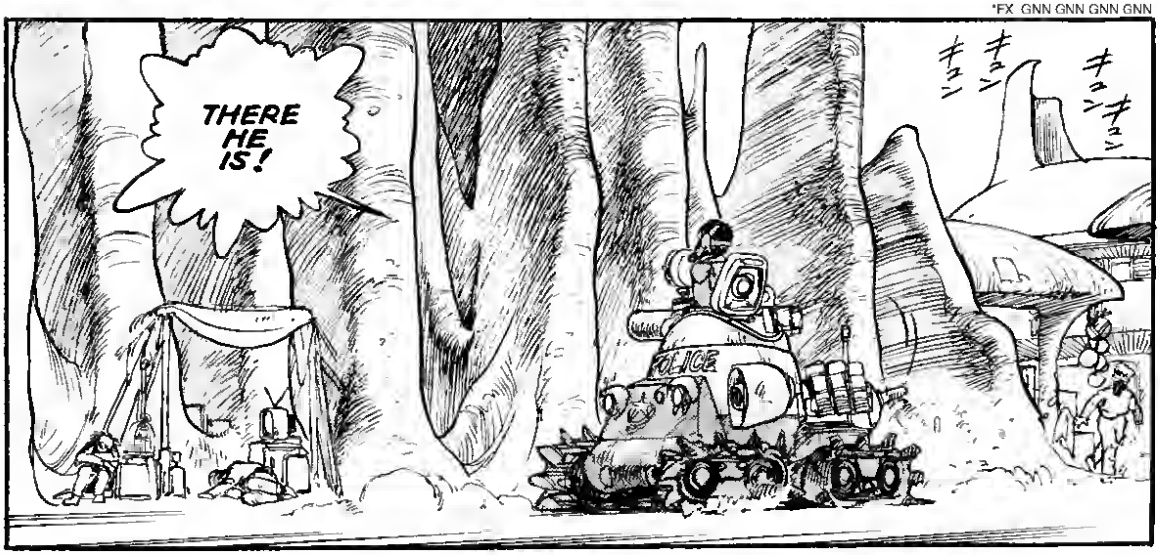
*FX BOM
BEEP
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
YOU HOPE-LESSLY INCOM-PETENT IDIOTS!
AIEE!
*BKOOM
Yeek! Yeek! Yeek!
*FX BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM

*FX GNGN
*FX KANGG
*FX BKOOM
WE'RE IN HOT PURSUIT, SQUAD LEADER!
MY- MY FINGERS WON'T STOP!
RUN! RUN, YOU LITTLE DEVIL!
NYAHAHA!
BEEP
*KLIK KLIK
*FX KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK
QUICK! I WANT THIS ON TAPE!
THIS... THIS IS AN OUT-RAGE!
TV
TV
AIEE!
*GNGNGNGN
YAAH!
POLICE
THUD
HUH?!
POLICE
*FX GNNNN
*FX GNGNGNGNNN KUNK!



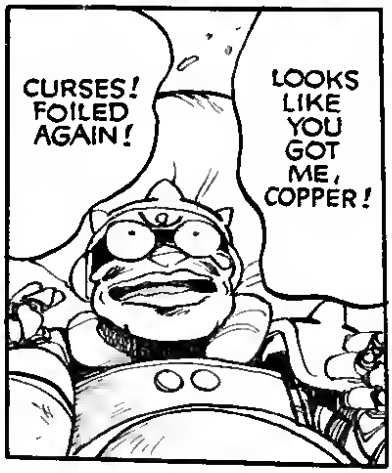
*FX GNN GNN GNN GNN GNN

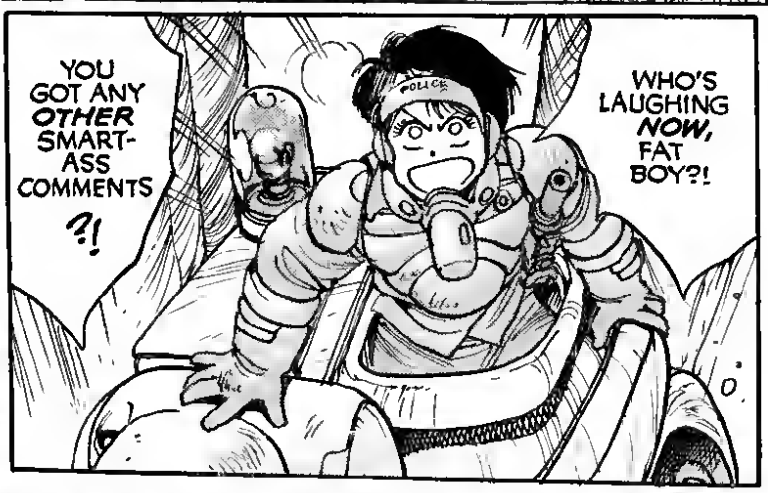
*FX GNN GNN GNN GNN



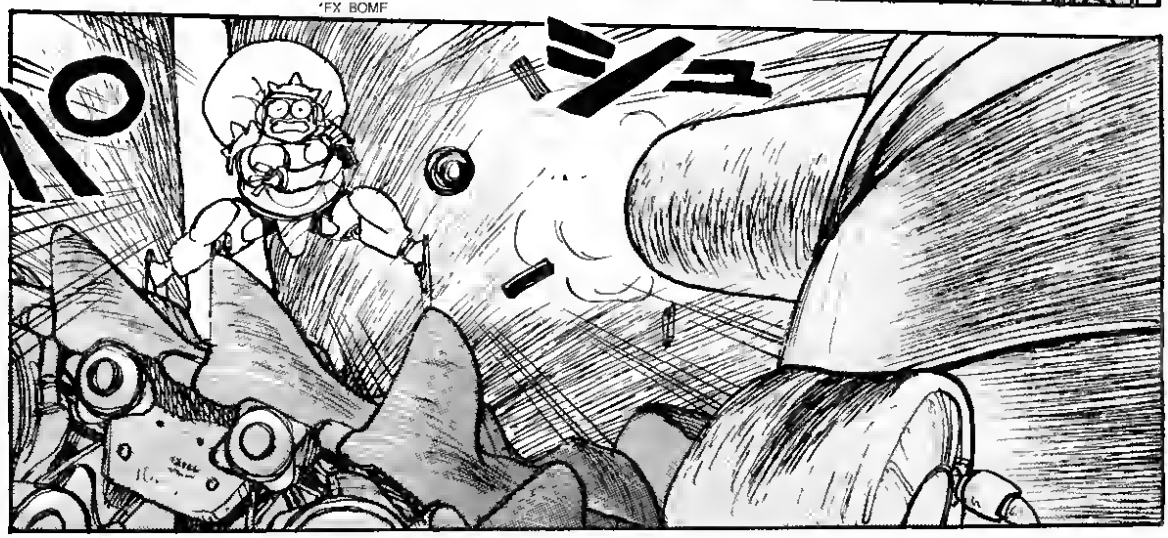
I'M FREE! FREE, I TELL YOU!
NYAHAHAHA! YOU CAN'T CATCH ME-- I'M INVINCIBLE!!
CATCH ME AND KISS MY BUTT! YAHAHA!
RRGG!
COME ON, YOU PINHEAD PIG COPS! CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!
*FX KCHAK
Huh?!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
EXTEND THE LEGS! REVERSE THE REAR DRIVE TRACKS!
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
*FX SKRASSHH
MY... MY HUT!!
WHAT THE HELL?!

GRN GRN GRN GRN
あっはっはっ
はっ
YOW
YAAHAHHA
POLICE


CURSES! FOILED AGAIN!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT ME, COPPER!


YOU GOT ANY OTHER SMART-ASS COMMENTS ?!
WHO'S LAUGHING NOW, FAT BOY?!

FX BOMF


ヒュー

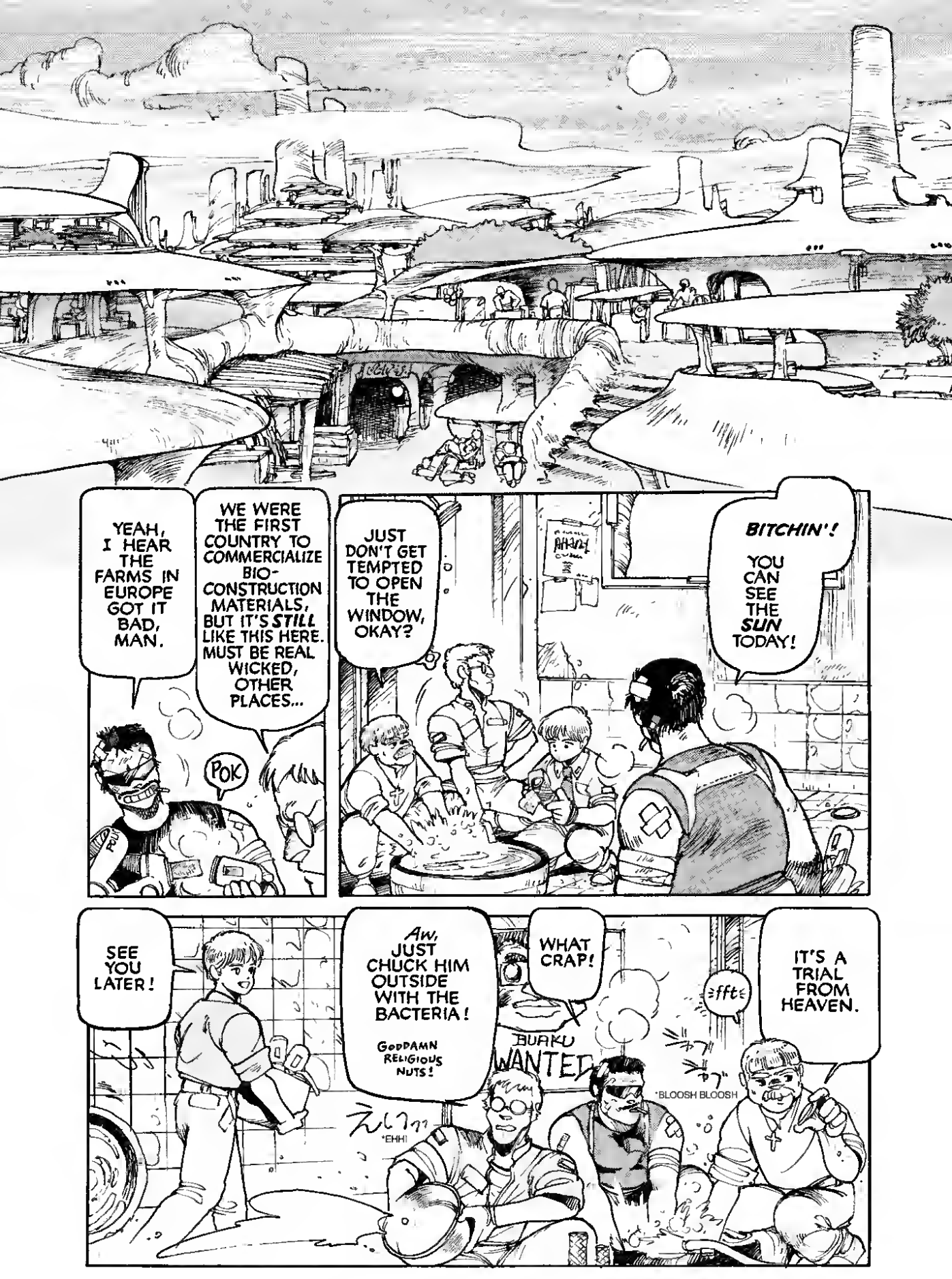
*SPRAKK
*BOMF
*FWUDD
YAAH!
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING? THOSE THINGS ARE GOLD COINS -- THEY USE THEM FOR SETTING THE INTEREST RATE ON CREDIT CARDS.
WOW! THESE ARE BEAUTIFUL! WHAT ARE THEY?
*FX BARABARA BARABARA
?
?

*FX KSSSHH
?
Uh... YOU KNOW, "UNDER ARREST" ...?
..... YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR BANK ROBBERY!
*FX WSHH
HANDS ON TOP OF YOUR HEAD! SLOWLY!
POLI
*FX KSHANG!
*FX FLINCH
*FX WHKOOM!
AEE!
ハズレ
*sign BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME

IT MUST HAVE BEEN BACK AT THE WINDSINK...! BRENTEN!!
HEY! THESE COINS ARE FAKE, TOO!
POLICE
*KONK
コン
OW!
OWWW...
*note SUCKERS!! HAHAHAHA! -BUAKU
おどろいたか はっはっは
*FX WHDD THNK
ボカ
ドス
GET YOUR MEATHOOKS OFFA MY GOLD!!
THEY'RE MINE, ALL MINE!
!
*FX WAAAA
わあ
あ
あ
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!
PHOO...
SQUAD LEADER BRENTEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
POLICE

*FX TAKKA TAKKA
*FX RRIINNGG
*FX TAKKA TAKKA
*FX RRIINNGG
WHAT?!
*BAM
WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?
Oh, HI, EDNA.
HELLO, THIS IS THE TANK POLICE!
AS FOR HIS JAIL TIME...
*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAKKA
Hmm?
I... HNGG... NGRRR..
*KRR
*KRAKK
HE- HE GOT AWAY FROM YOU AGAIN?!?
*SKRSSH
*FX RIP RIP
*FX SCCHHLERP
ずるるるう
=whew=
CH- CHIEF!
AHRR... GNGG...
*FX RIINNGG RIINNGG
*FX BEEP
JEEZ, THIS IS EMBARRASSING... YOU GUYS...
WHAT?! MY BOY GOT A LUNGFUL OF OUTSIDE AIR?
YOU CAN WRITE THE DAMN REPORT AND REQUEST FORM!
DN'T F'GET 'A R'QUES' FO'M F' =gip= MORE AMMO!
HOW TO KIL
45
22
*FX TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA

*FX TAKKA TAKKA TAK TAK TAK TAKKA
HEY, YOU!
CHIEF! I GOTTA GO-- MY SON WENT OUTSIDE WITHOUT HIS MASK!
*FWHUDD
CAN'T HIT A DAMN THING WITHOUT THAT, CAN I?
Oh, GREAT.
THEY SAID TO TRY PVNS...
LEONA, THE REPAIR CREW WAS LOOKING FOR YOU-- SOMETHING ABOUT THE GUN-SIGHT...
B-BUT LOOK... IT'S SO WELL-MADE...
=sniff=
OUR HAPPY CITIZENS, S-SENDING US THINGS LIKE THIS...!
*on bomb STOP TORMENTING US! PLEASE!
ALL OF THEM?!
WOW... COMPLAINTS, huh?
JUST LOOK AT THESE!!
*note DIE PIGS!
AIEE!
EEK!
EEYAH!
EEEK!
HEEYAA!
NYAHAHA!
*FX KRASSH THDD
S-SUH-SAY WHAT?! I, THEY, HE... hee hee hee!
=snap=
I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, CHIEF... THIS THING'S DANGER-OUS!
*PUM


YEAH, I HEAR THE FARMS IN EUROPE GOT IT BAD, MAN.
WE WERE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO COMMERCIALIZE BIO-CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUT IT'S *STILL* LIKE THIS HERE. MUST BE REAL WICKED, OTHER PLACES...
POK
JUST DON'T GET TEMPTED TO OPEN THE WINDOW, OKAY?
BITCHIN'! YOU CAN SEE THE *SUN* TODAY!
SEE YOU LATER!
Aw, JUST CHUCK HIM OUTSIDE WITH THE BACTERIA!
GODDAMN RELIGIOUS NUTS!
*EHH!
WHAT CRAP!
BUAKU WANTED
fft
*BLOOSH BLOOSH
IT'S A TRIAL FROM HEAVEN.

GYAAHH!
AL, LET ME OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW! HOW DARE YOU LOCK ME UP!! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! LET ME OUT, DAMMIT!
.....
.....
WAN
KU THE GREAT
YEAH...
WHAT WAS THE LITTLE TWERP UP TO? WASHING LEONA'S MASK FOR HER AGAIN?
BUAKU THE GREAT
WANTED
*FX KANG KANG KASHANGG KRANGG SKSSHH
LET US SPECULATE ON THE CHIEF'S CURRENT PSYCHO-LOGICAL STATUS.
heh, heh.
"TRIAL FROM HEAVEN," MAN.
KU THE GREAT
WANTED
YOU KNOW, IT'S DOWN-RIGHT INHUMAN TO LOCK UP THE CHIEF IN ONE OF OUR OWN CELLS...
THE BRASS HAVE BEEN RIDIN' HIM ON THAT, MAN.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT HIT FIVE DAYS AGO, REMEMBER? THAT GIRL GOT KIDNAPPED FROM THE CRITICAL SCIENCE DEVELOP-MENT AGENCY?
Aw, YOU'RE FULL OF IT.
EYOW!
*FX SKSSHH
CIGARETTE...
Huh?
IS THAT RIGHT?
ANYWAY, I WOULD PRESUME THAT THIS IS THE PRIMARY MOTI-VATING FACTOR IN HIS BREAK-DOWN.
POINT--WE ARE THE SPECIAL TANK POLICE, CREATED SPECIFICALLY TO STOP BUAKU AND HIS MINIONS. YET AGAIN TODAY, AS COUNTLESS TIMES BEFORE...
Ahem. WELL, YOU KNOW...

LEONA!
WANTED
POLI
*FX SQUEE SQUEE SQUEEE
キュッ
キュッ
キュッ
HI, THERE...
HAAA!
YEAH, I'M BANGED UP FROM HEAD TO TOE...
WELL, IT'S YOUR PUNISH-MENT. NEXT TIME, DRIVE MORE CARE-FULLY!
THIS? THE CHIEF ALMOST GOT AHOLD OF ME WHEN I WENT BY HIS CELL.
はははのは。
*FX HEH HEH HEH
...WHERE'D YOU GET THAT SCRATCH?
SAY... HI!

NOTHING?!
NOTHING?!
C'MON, THIS IS NOTHING. THE ARMOR'S NOT CRACKED OR ANYTHING...
*FX HAHAHA
はは
?
Oh, YOU MEAN THE TANK!
YOU TOOK THAT EXQUISITE EXTERIOR AND SCRATCHED IT!
THAT DELICATE BLEND OF SMOOTHLY MELDED SURFACES WAS THE VERY EXPRESSION OF INVINCIBLE ARMOR, CASTING FEAR INTO ALL THOSE OF EVIL HEART! BUT YOU!
YOU THINK I'M JOKING?! ARE YOU CRAZY?!
*GRAB
SCIENCE IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL...
AN INTERESTING PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE!
BEAUTY IS SUCH A FLEETING THING...!
Ohhh, MY SWEET LITTLE PRETTY!
B-BUT, I...
...huh?
F'CHRIST'S SAKE, WOMAN! DON'T YOU EVER QUIT?!
THE THRILL OF YOUR COLD, HARD TOUCH... ♡
*CAW CAW

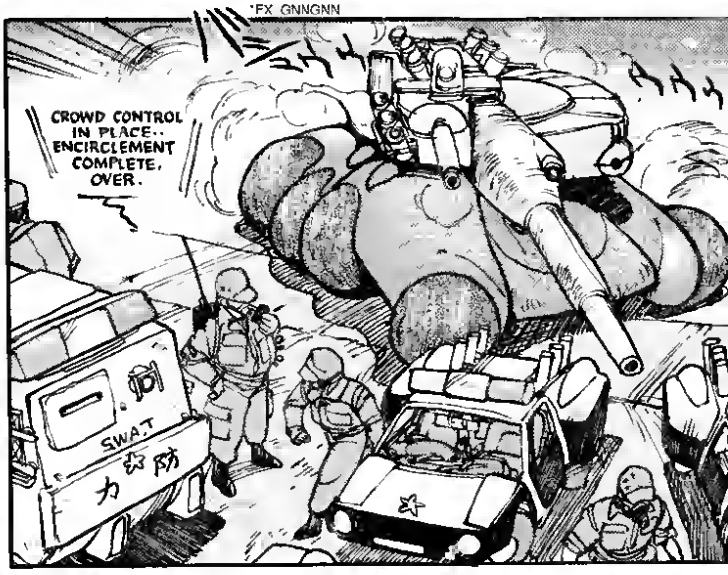
*FX TAKKA TAKKA TAK RRIINNGG
*FX RRIINNGG
CHIEF, IT'S A CALL FROM THAT "CITIZEN'S WATCHDOG COMMITTEE" BUNCH!
KEEP YA FILTHY MITTS OFFA ME, PIG!
?
YOU'VE GOT VISITORS!
*MNCH MNCH
YOU TANK GUYS GOT IT GOOD-- DON'T YOU EVER WORK?
LET'S SEE HIS ALIBI STAND UP TO THIS!
WHAT'S THAT?
LOOKS LIKE THOSE GUYS FROM INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGAIN...
WHAT'S UP IN THERE?
BRENTEN! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS REQUISITION? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY WANT THAT MUCH AMMO!
THANKS, KID!
LETTER FOR YOU!
THOSE BASTARDS AREN'T EVER GOING TO LET HIM FORGET IT, EITHER!
BEFORE CHAPLAIN WAS TRANSFERRED HERE, WORD IS HE TOOK PITY ON SOME PUNK AND LET HIM OFF THE HOOK. SO THEN THE SCUMBAG SHOOTS CHAPLAIN'S PARTNER AND GETS CLEAN AWAY.

WELL? WHAT IS IT?
SON OF A BITCH!
I MADE IT! I'VE BEEN HIRED BY THE CRITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER!
FORTUNE SMILES ON ME AT LAST! FINALLY!
GOOD RIDDANCE TO THIS HELL-HOLE!
"HELL-HOLE" ...?
*FX. RRIINNGG TAKKA TAKKA
THEY DIDN'T LET ME INTO OXFORD, BUT NOW... NOW I FINALLY...
SQUAD LEADER... ABOUT THAT REQUI-SITION SHEET...
ALL RIGHT, WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
HOT TIP, KIDDIES!
JOINT-OP WITH THE LOCAL SWAT! WE'RE TAKING OUT ONE OF THE BUAKU GANG'S HIDEOUTS!
ALL RIGHT!

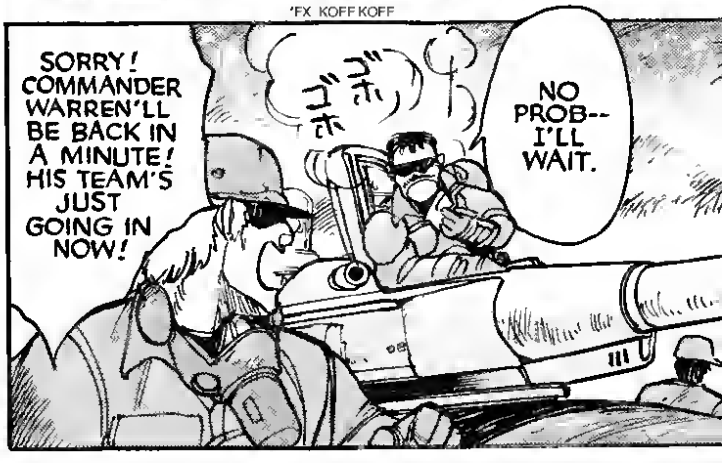
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

*on box RUSH

*FX GNNGNN



*FX KOFF KOFF

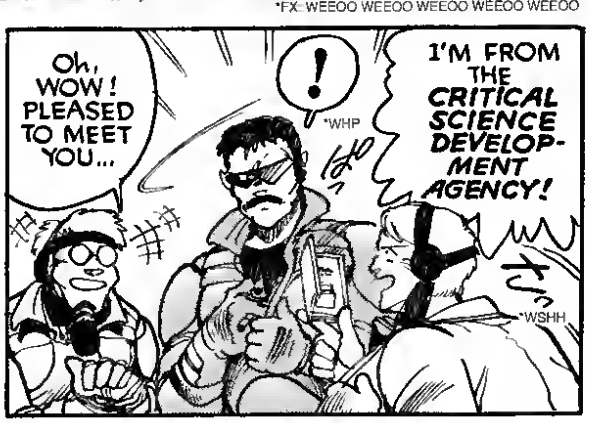


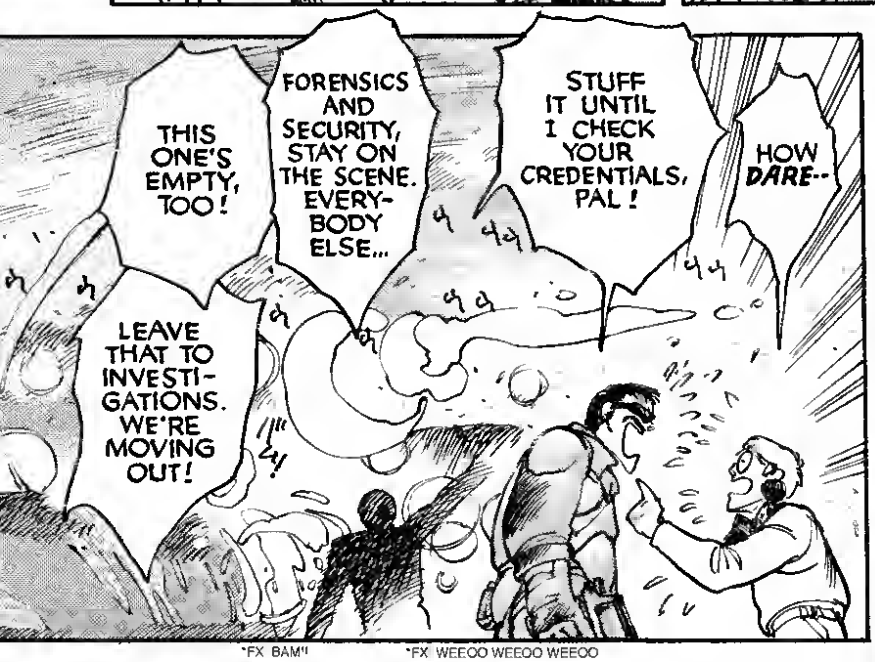
*FX BAM!
DON'T EVEN NEED A MASK IN HERE!
THE AIR'S WAY TOO CLEAN FOR A CIVILIAN HOUSE...
THE O2 READINGS IN THIS PLACE ARE INCRED-IBLE!
NO-BODY HOME.
SQUAD TWO HERE-- THEY'VE FLOWN THE COOP.
SOME-BODY SQUEALED ...?
CONFIS-CATE 'EM!
WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING... MAINTENANCE KITS FOR POWERED SUITS... AND GOLD! GOLD COINS!
!
*GRRR
*GRRRRR
SWAT
POLICE

SHE ALIVE OR WHAT?
...SHE'S GOT WINGS ?!
WEIRD... WELL, BETTER REPORT IN.
I'VE SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE... HEY! IT'S THE SAME AS THOSE MUG SHOTS WE GOT FROM THE CSDA! BUT...
A DOLL...?

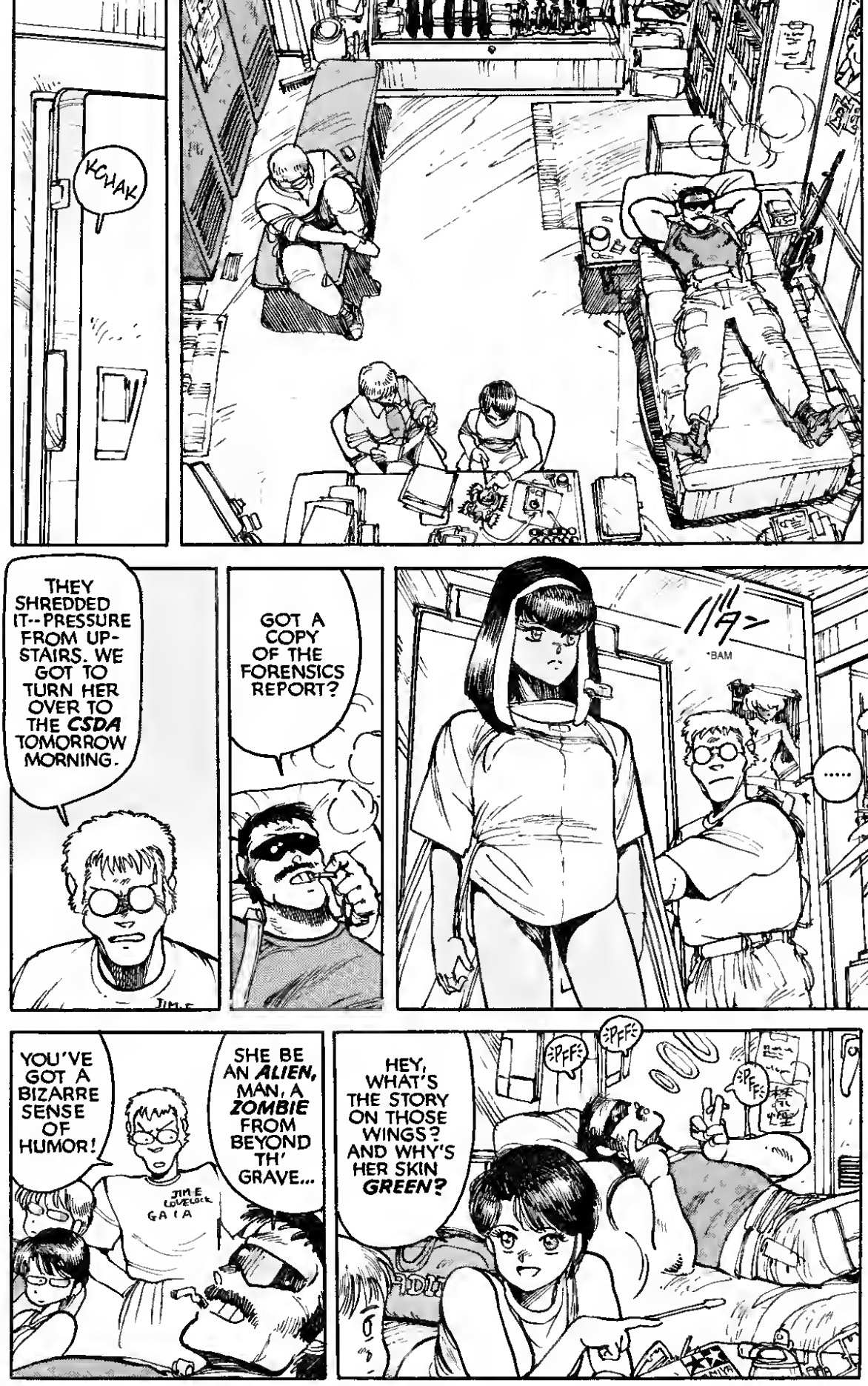
*FX: WEEOO WEEOO
WHAT THE F--?? HEY, MEATHEAD! NO CIVILIANS ALLOWED!
LET ME THROUGH! LET ME THROUGH!
IS SHE IN SHOCK? DOPED?
THOSE GUYS PERVERTS OR SOME-THIN'...?
THIS IS PRETTY STRANGE...
WHAT'S THIS, A CHEAP SHOW..?
*FX: WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO

NOT SO FAST, PAL!
WE'LL TAKE THE GIRL, NOW. HEY! BRING THAT OVER HERE!


Oh, WOW! PLEASED TO MEET YOU...
!
*WHP
I'M FROM THE CRITICAL SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY!
*WSHH


THIS ONE'S EMPTY, TOO!
FORENSICS AND SECURITY, STAY ON THE SCENE. EVERY-BODY ELSE...
STUFF IT UNTIL I CHECK YOUR CREDENTIALS, PAL!
HOW DARE--
LEAVE THAT TO INVESTI-GATIONS. WE'RE MOVING OUT!
*FX: BAM!!
*FX: WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO

Heh, heh... NOBODY SCREWS AROUND WITH THE TANK POLICE!
LAY ONE HAND ON HER AND YOU'RE HAM-BURGER, NERDO!

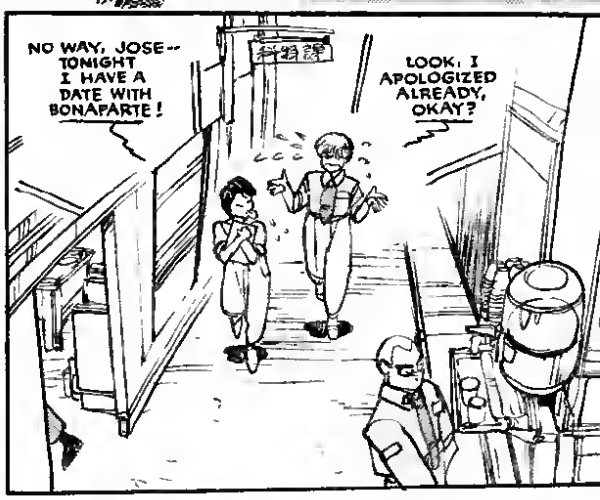

KCHAK
THEY SHREDDED IT--PRESSURE FROM UP-STAIRS. WE GOT TO TURN HER OVER TO THE CSDA TOMORROW MORNING.
GOT A COPY OF THE FORENSICS REPORT?
*BAM
.....
YOU'VE GOT A BIZARRE SENSE OF HUMOR!
SHE BE AN ALIEN, MAN, A ZOMBIE FROM BEYOND TH' GRAVE...
JIM E LOVECOCK GAIA
HEY, WHAT'S THE STORY ON THOSE WINGS? AND WHY'S HER SKIN GREEN?
:PFF:
:PFF:
:PFF:

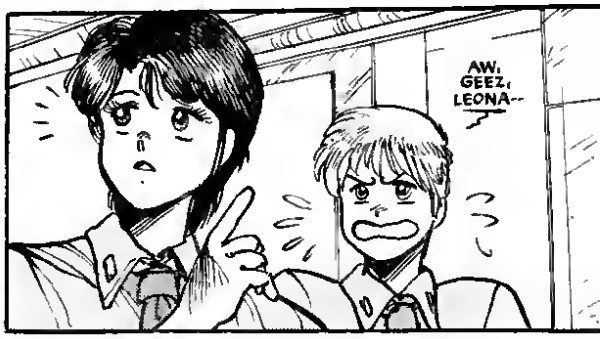
THAT'S JUST ONE SMALL PART OF IT!
YOU MEAN, THE LION KILLS THE DEER, THE CARCASS RETURNS TO THE SOIL, THAT KIND OF THING?
GAIA
JAMES LOVELOCK
=Hrrmph!= I PRESUME YOU ARE ALL AT LEAST AWARE THAT THE NATURAL WORLD RUNS IN CYCLES?
WELL, ACTUALLY ...
HEY, WAKE UP! YOU THINK YOU'RE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL?!
THE WHOLE SPACESHIP EARTH, ORGANIC AND INORGANIC, IS A SINGLE LIVING ORGANISM!
THE REGULATION OF ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION BY THE BIOSPHERE, NITROGEN FIXING, DECOMPOSITION... THE WATER CYCLE, THE KREBS CYCLE, PLATE TECTONICS! ETCETERA, ETCETERA!
SHE'S NOT A "CHICK"... SHE'S A LIVING AIR CLEANER.
TWITCH
SO WHAT'S ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE GREEN CHICK, huh?
=Ahem!= ANYWAY, AS THE PRICE TO PAY FOR HAVING INTERFERED WITH THIS IMMENSE, DELICATE ECO-SYSTEM, WE NOW LIVE IN A PERMANENT CLOUD OF TOXIC MICRO-ORGANISMS.

DID YOU REPORT HER AS STOLEN PROPERTY? MAKE SURE YOU KEEP HER WATERED, AND DON'T DO NOTHIN' THAT MIGHT GET US IN DEEP SHIT WITH THE WILDLIFE PROTECTION AGENCY!
HEY!
SHE'S AN ARTIFICIAL LIFEFORM WITH SUPERNORMAL ABILITIES TO ADAPT TO RADICAL ENVIRON-MENTS!
SHE ABSORBS THE CLOUD, FILTERS IT, AND SUPPLIES US WITH OXYGEN. SHE'S PART PLANT, SHE'S PART ANIMAL, SHE'S PART COLONY OF MICROORGANIC LIFE!
JIM E. LOVELOCK
POLICE DEPT
TRNK POLICE
VRMMM

WHY DOES THE NATURAL WORLD CO-EXIST THROUGH THE DIVISION OF LABOR?! WHY DID IT HAVE TO FOLLOW THAT MODEL, AND NOT ANOTHER? WELL?!
WHAT-CHA DOIN' ...?
*WHPP

*KLIK KLIK
*TAKKA TAKKA


NO WAY, JOSE-- TONIGHT I HAVE A DATE WITH BONAPARTE!
LOOK, I APOLOGIZED ALREADY, OKAY?


AW, GEEZ, LEONA--

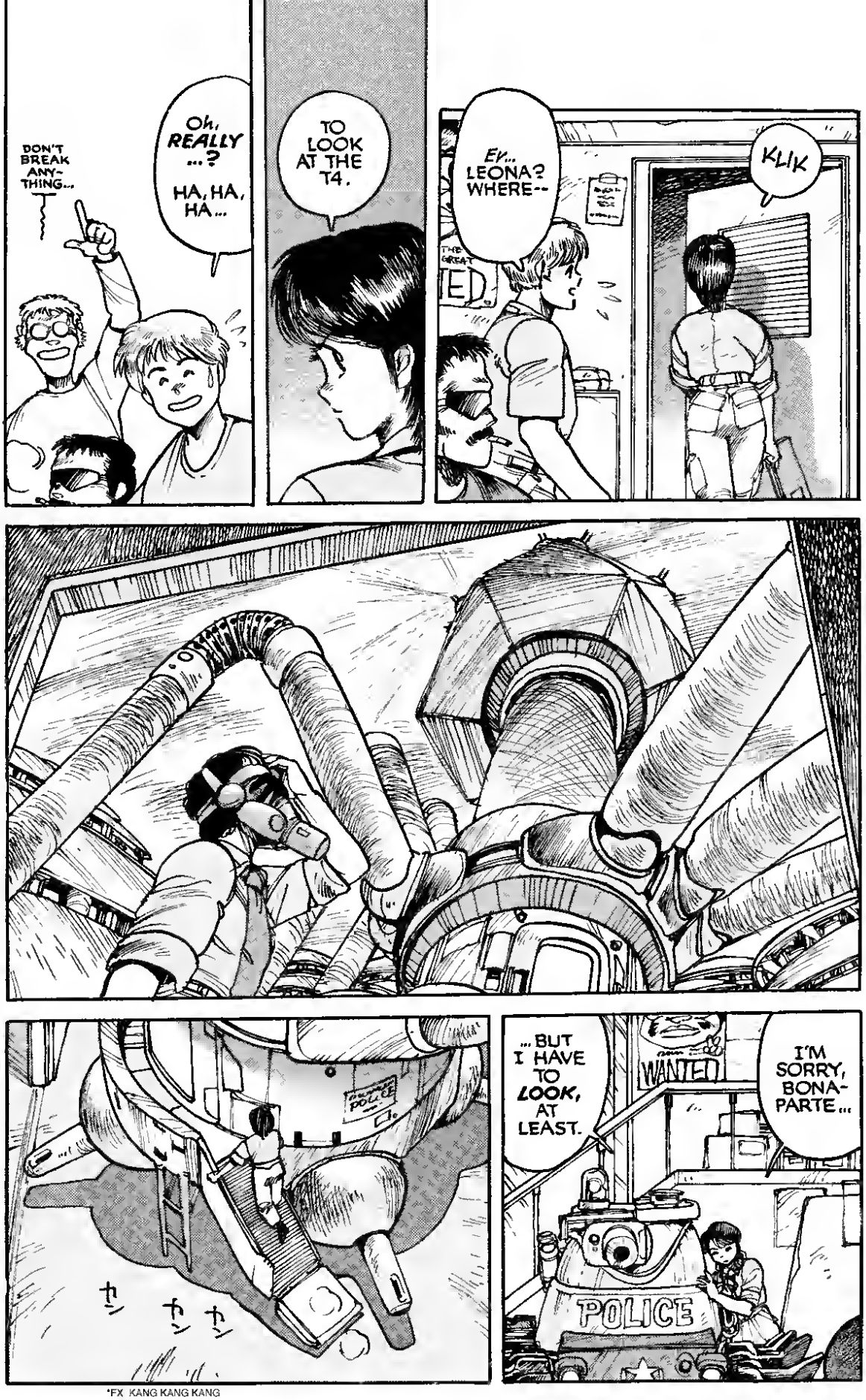
WHY?
SHE DOESN'T REALLY NEED FOOD, CLOTHES, SHELTER, OR EVEN A MASK. YET THEY'VE MADE HER HUMANOID...
...
CERTAINLY SHE'S AN INEFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. BUT EVEN BEYOND THE OBVIOUS... IT'S STRANGE, DON'T YOU THINK?
NOW TAKE THIS GIRL HERE...
I, uh, WELL, SEE...?
AT THE PRESENT TIME, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, THEY'VE CHOSEN TO MAKE A "HUMAN" WITH AN AIR CLEANING FUNCTION, USING PLANTS AND MICROORGANISMS MUCH THE WAY NATURE USES BODY STRUCTURES AND CELLS...
THEY'RE FAKE, DEAR
?
IDEALLY, YOU'D WANT A SHAPE THAT COULD RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT, BUT IN ANY CASE, THIS LITTLE WALKING "PLANET EARTH" HERE FORMS PART OF A SET/CYCLE THAT INCLUDES AND BENEFITS HUMANS.
WAIT... THE CSDA COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THINKING THAT...!
BUT WHAT NECESSITY WAS THERE TO BASE HER ON A HUMAN FORM? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO JUST MASS-PRODUCE PLANTS FUSED WITH MICROBES...
AS I SAID, SCIENCE IS THE DEVIL'S WORK...
WE'D PLANNED TO DISSECT HER LUNGS, BUT THEY WERE TOO COMPLI-CATED.
Oh, ME AND A DOCTOR BUDDY OF MINE TOOK OUT ONE OF HER RIBS.
?
WHAT'S THIS SCAR?

GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!!
GOOD MORNING!!!
JEEZ... WHO OPENED THE DAMN CURTAINS...?! I HAD A DOUBLE SHIFT...
MMMPH...
GOOD, ギャー
*KLIK
*WSHH
ガバッ
.....
.....
YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT... SOME PEOPLE WILL SLEEP WITH ANY-THING.
DID YOU DO STUFF LIKE THAT AT BUAKU'S PLACE...? PROBABLY..
THOUGHT THE AIR SMELLED CLEANER...
NOW JUST HOLD ON, HERE!
*FX FWSSH
HEY! WATCH THOSE WINGS, WILL--
LOOK, WOULD YOU PLEASE...

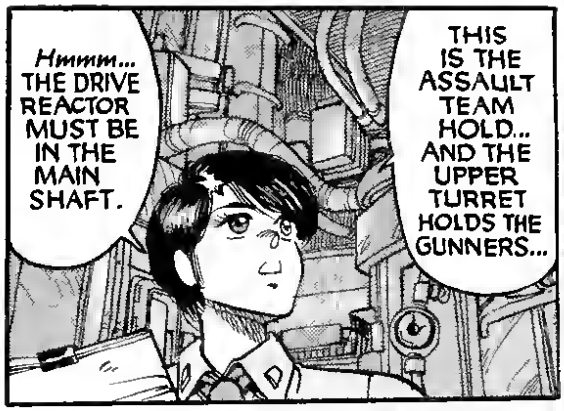
ばん!
*BAN!
ん!
*FX: TAADAA!!
ばん
*GLINT
ばん!!
住民代表
*sashes: CITIZENS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE POLICE
THE CHIEF... AND SQUAD LEADER BRENTEN...?
WAKE UP, YOU IDIOT!
ぶん
ぶん
AL! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
*FX: SHK SHK

NNGRR-RRRR!
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM, LADY.
OUR POINT IS *THIS*-- WE THE PEOPLE ARE *FED UP* WITH HAVING YOUR RIDICULOUS TOY TANKS RUNNING ABOUT *DESTROYING* OUR TOWN AND *TEARING UP* OUR ROADS!
AND SO, GENTLE-MEN...
WHAT THE HELL'S IT *DO*? CATCH HUNDRED POUND *FLIES*?
YES, YES, OF COURSE! WE'LL BE *GLAD* TO TRY IT OUT... *heh, heh...* MAYBE TOMORROW...
WE OF THE C.A.D.P. HAVE COOPERATED WITH *SPECIFIC DYNAMICS INC.* TO DESIGN THIS FINE MACHINE AS A TESTBED FOR OUR THEORIES, AND WE *INSIST* THAT IT BE PLACED IN *IMMEDIATE* SERVICE!
THEY WANT US TO USE THOSE DAMN THINGS...
?!?
MANUAL
GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
EXIT
LET US DEMON-STRATE...

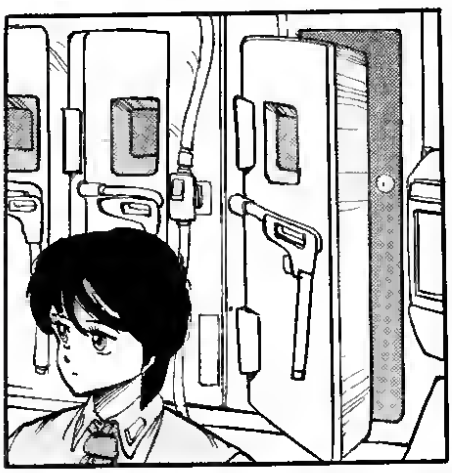
TH...
THEY CAN'T...
THEY CAN'T !!
GUESS SO...
IN-- INSTEAD OF BONAPARTE ...?
POLICE T4-F
LOOKS DAMNED UNSTABLE TO ME... HELL, EVEN BONAPARTE'S BETTER THAN THIS.
A T4-F TANK, hmm?
BURKU'S GREAT WANTED
*FX BANG
Ulp!
ガたっ

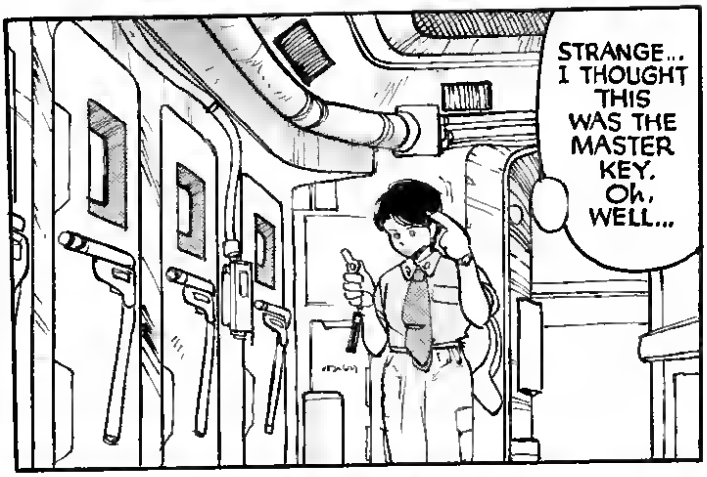


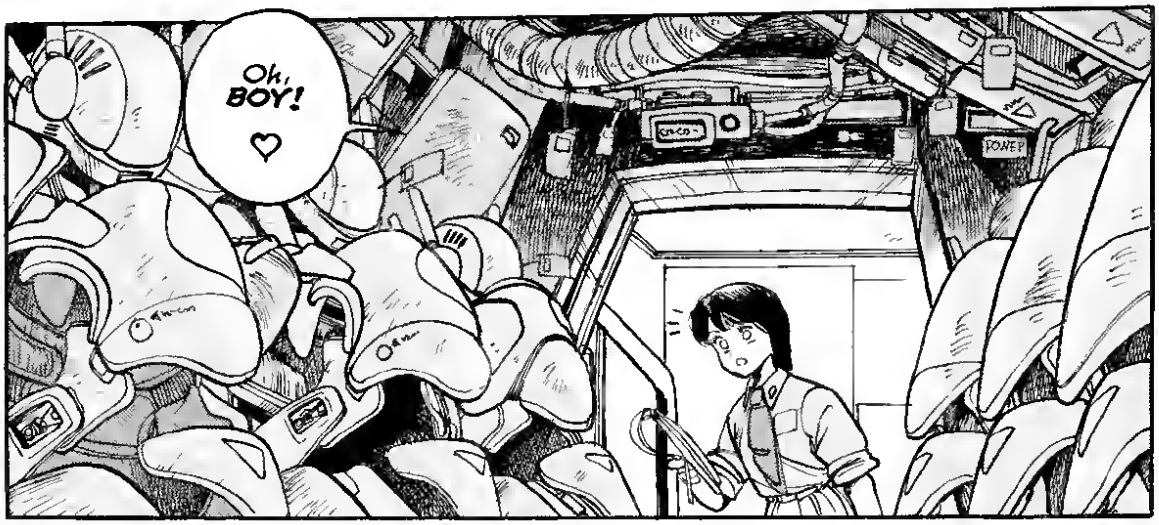
*FX KANG KANG KANG

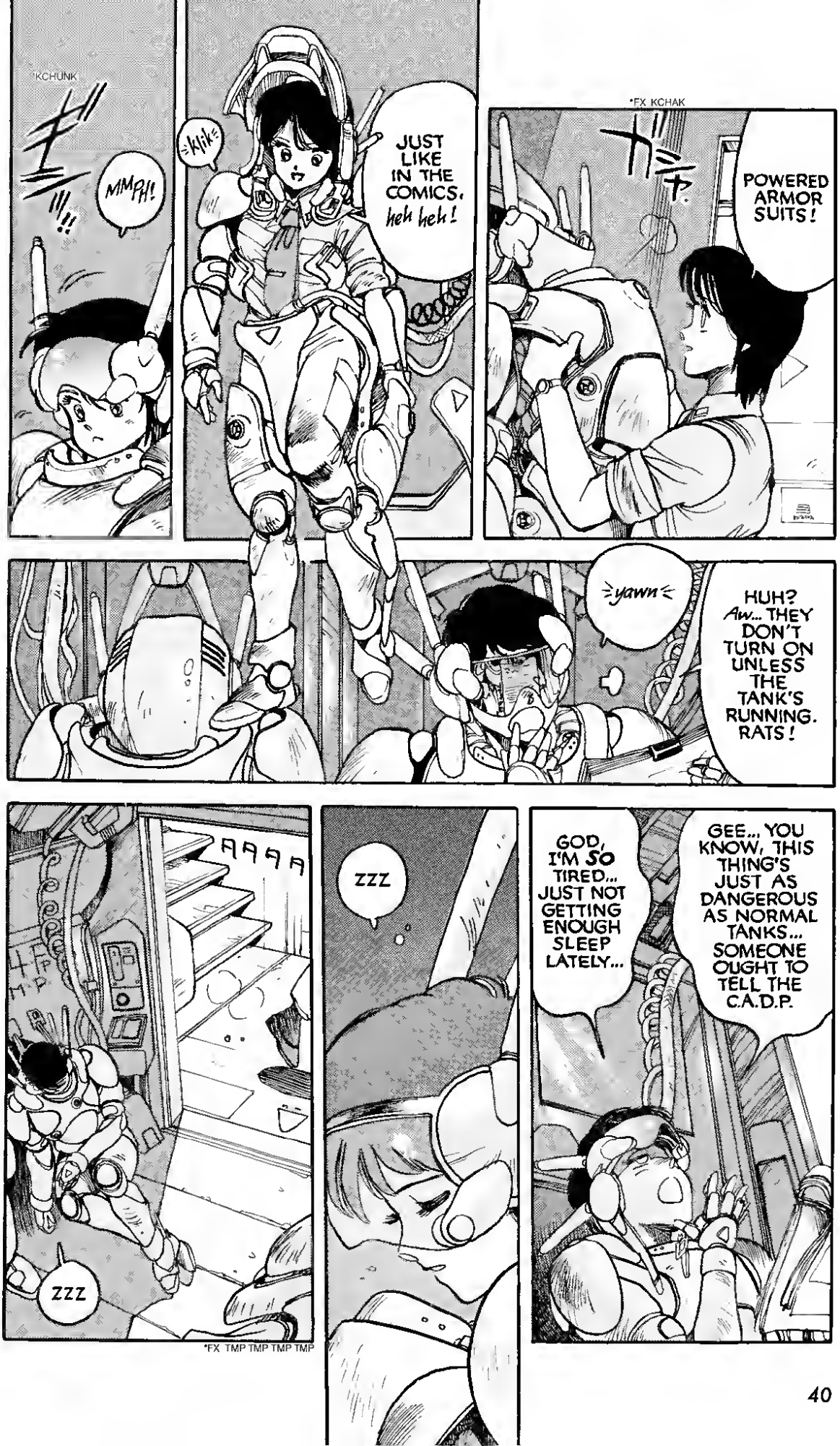

Hmmm... THE DRIVE REACTOR MUST BE IN THE MAIN SHAFT.
THIS IS THE ASSAULT TEAM HOLD... AND THE UPPER TURRET HOLDS THE GUNNERS...

FX KLIIK
Hn??




STRANGE... I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE MASTER KEY. Oh, WELL...


Oh, BOY!
♡


*KCHUNK
MMPH!
-klik-
JUST LIKE IN THE COMICS. heh heh!
*FX KCHAK
POWERED ARMOR SUITS!
HUH? Aw... THEY DON'T TURN ON UNLESS THE TANK'S RUNNING. RATS!
-yawn-
GEE... YOU KNOW, THIS THING'S JUST AS DANGEROUS AS NORMAL TANKS... SOMEONE OUGHT TO TELL THE C.A.D.P.
GOD, I'M SO TIRED... JUST NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY...
ZZZ
ZZZ
*FX TMP TMP TMP TMP

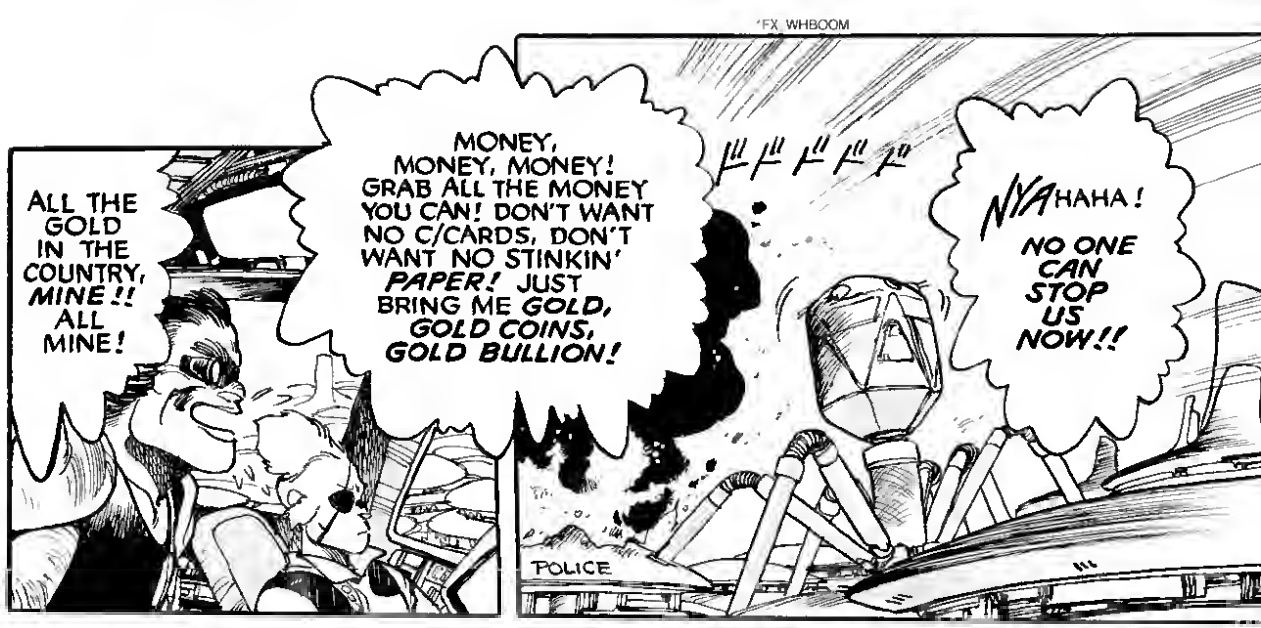
*FX ZORO ZORO ZORO
*FX RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
さわさわさわ
ぞろ
ぞろぞろ
*box AMMO
カヤク
Shhh!!
YEEK!
BUBKU THE GREAT
WANTED
MNCH
MNCH
SSHH!!
AHRGG... THIS IS JUST LIKE THE POLICE! LOOK AT THIS EXPENSIVE AMMO! AS A TAXPAYER, I--
*KONK
DANGER
TUBEU

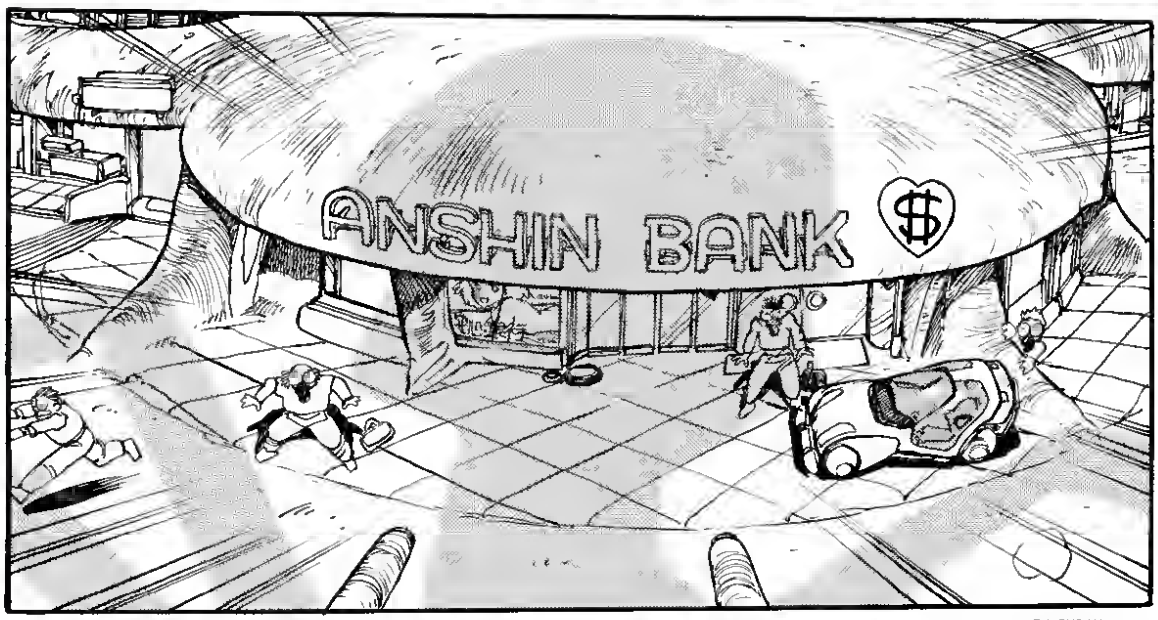
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO LOOK FOR GREEN-PEACE.
MORE AN' MORE AN' MORE...
ANNA-PUMA... WHERE'S UNI-PUMA?
Hee, hee, hee!
GOOD CITIZENS ARE PUTTY IN MY HANDS!
OOOMH, BOSS! YOU'RE JUST SO GREAT! YOU'RE SUCH A GENIUS! THIS IS JUST FABULOUS! YOUR TROJAN HORSE PLAN WORKED JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
COOL...
*KONK
*FX BRIINNGG
YES, MA'AM. NO, MA'AM. SORRY, MA'AM.
YOU GOT IT! BY THE TIME I FINALLY GOT THERE, WHAT DO YOU THINK I FOUND?
AVIPP
*FX TAKKA TAKKA
Hmm?
TANK-R
KCHIK

FREEZE!
!
*CHKK
HEY! YOU OVER THERE! WHA--
SNAK
HANDS ON YOUR HEAD... EASY NOW...
GET YOUR HAND OFF THE GUN-- I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU!
*FX WHDD
HNK!
*FX BAM BAM

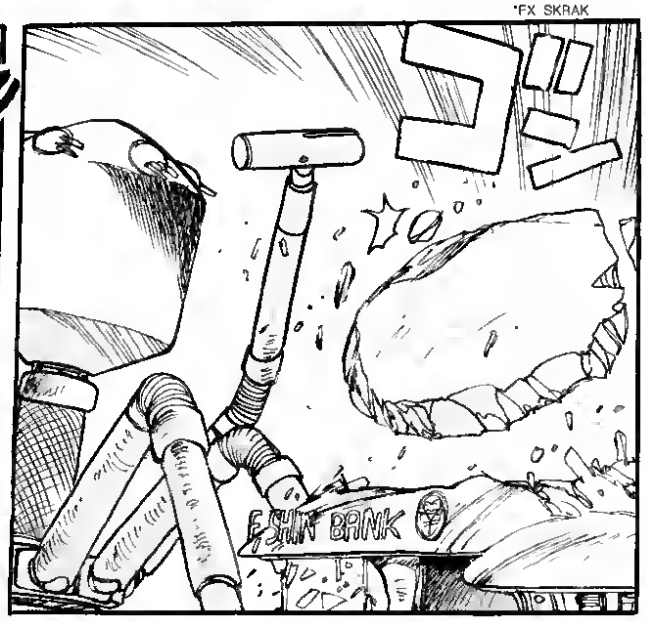
POWER UP..!
POWER UP!
POWER UP!!
DROP THE AMMO!
DOLT! IDIOT! BIMBO! THIS MEANS WAR!
*WSHH
SORRY, BOSS!
*FX WKOOM
*BLAM BLAM
FIRE!!
POLICE
*FX BOOM

*FX FOOM FOOM
ふふみっ
NYAHAHA HAHA!!!
TAKE THAT! AND THAT!!
*FX BLAM BLAM
AIEE!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
HELP!
*FX SPUK SPUK SPUK
LEONA! LEONA!!
GREEN-PEACE CROLIS IS GONE!
AIEE!
HNNGG...
THE BUAKU GANG ?!?
*WAAAA
*WAAAA
AND WE CAN GET ONE OF THE HEAVY TANKS RUNNING WITH JUST A MODULE CHANGE! I'LL TAKE THAT ONE!
BONAPARTE'S JUST KNOCKED OVER, NOT DAMAGED!
ROGER!
OW, OW!
HUH! PROBABLY LYING AROUND SOMEWHERE IN A PILE OF TANK PARTS...
BRENTEN! LEONA'S NOT HERE!
DON'T TELL ME WE'RE RESPON-SIBLE...?
IT... IT WAS BUILT WITH PUBLIC FUNDS...
*FX KRNCH
*FX KBOOM WHAM


ALL THE GOLD IN THE COUNTRY, MINE!! ALL MINE!
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! GRAB ALL THE MONEY YOU CAN! DON'T WANT NO C/CARDS, DON'T WANT NO STINKIN' PAPER! JUST BRING ME GOLD, GOLD COINS, GOLD BULLION!
*FX WHBOOM
NYAHAHA! NO ONE CAN STOP US NOW!!
POLICE


ANSHIN BANK

*FX KANG KANG KANG KANG


*FX SKRAK
ANSHIN BANK

*FX SLUUUUURK
ぎごごご

*FX BKOOM
DAMN! THE ARTIST DREW MY HEAD SO BIG I CAN'T FIT IT INTO THIS HELMET!
HEY, MY ARMORED SUIT'S GOT A HEAD IN IT ALREADY!
HOLD IT! WE CAN'T START THE ASSAULT YET!
*FX AH HAH HAH HAH
HEY, BUAKU! LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT...
おっはっはっは
IDIOT!
BUT MY LEGS DON'T FIT...
WOW! WAY COOL!
HAH! LOOK AT ME! PERFECTION!
OWWW!
COME WITH ME!
WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T THE KID WITH THE TOY TANK!
DON'T TOUCH ME, YOU CREEP! TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
*FWMP
*KRAK
B-BUAKU... HELP...!

SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S PLENTY OF AIR IN YOUR HEAD!
IF YOU'D RETURN THAT GIRL, MAYBE WE COULD ALL HAVE CLEAN AIR SOMEDAY!
*FX GN GN GN GN
HEY!
HEH... JUST A SECURITY CHECK!
DON'T PEEK WHEN I'M CHANGING!
*FX BOOT
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THE GREEN-PEACE PLAN?
B-BUT IF YOU DO THAT, THE SMOG WILL JUST--
I WANT TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR! I WANT TO DRIVE MY OWN CAR! I CAN'T QUIT SMOKING! I WANT TO USE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS, ARTIFICIAL ADDITIVES!
SHADDUP! AND I DON'T WANT ANYONE REBUILDING ME!
YOU'RE JUST AFRAID THEY'D ARREST YOU WHEN YOU WENT IN FOR THE SURGERY! THEY WOULD, TOO!
SO WHO CARES!? AT LEAST WE WOULDN'T NEED THOSE DAMN MASKS ANYMORE!
AND THEY WANT TO EXPAND INTO SPACE, TOO, THE BASTARDS!
THEY'RE JUST GOING TO USE INFO FROM HER DEVELOPMENT TO TURN US ALL INTO GREEN CRITTERS! TOO HARD TO CLEAN THE AIR, SO JUST MAKE PEOPLE WHO CAN BREATHE THAT CRAP, RIGHT?
ME TOO, BOSS!

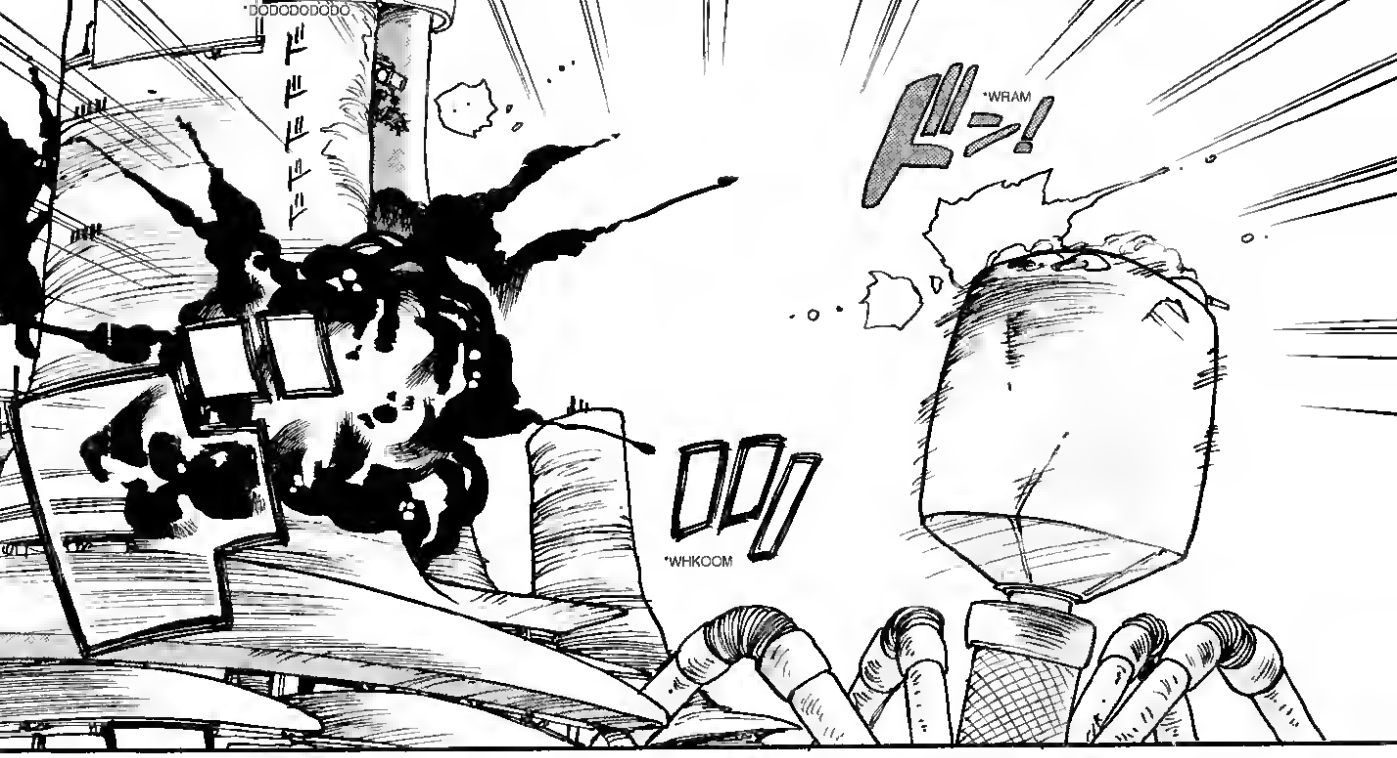
*FX WHDD
HRRK!
Y... YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!! I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY GOOD-LOOKING, YOU KNOW! AND I NEVER ON A FIRST DATE!
H-HEY... HEY! STOP THAT!
*FX OOHHH
YOU MORON! SHE KICKED ME IN THE BALLS!
SHE MUST BE REALLY GOOD, huh?
WOW, THAT WAS QUICK, BOSS!
*FLOP
UUURRGGHHH
*FX WHAM
GMPH!
YEAH, YEAH, CUTE!
Hee hee
CUTE, huh?
Hmph!

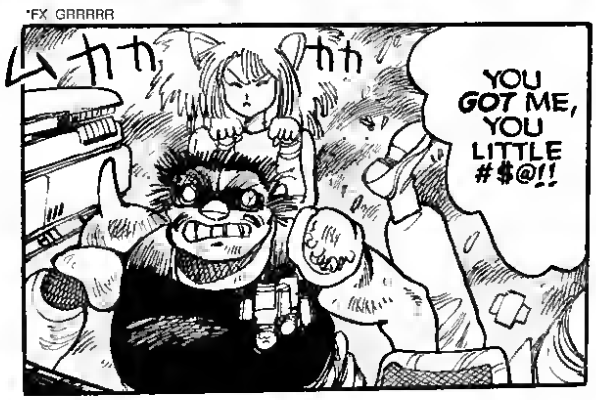
OUT
Sigh...
*sign ARSENAL
*FX SHK SHK SHK
MAYBE MY EARS ARE TOO LONG FOR THIS ONE?
すすす!!
OH, YEAH! I ALMOST FORGOT-- THE POWER SUITS!
YOU THINK THEY'D FIT LUNA OR KEI?
HOPELESS, DAMN IT! JUST CAN'T WEAR THOSE OFF-THE-RACK SUITS!
*FX SHFF SHFF
Ahh!
*SSSSSSS
*FX OOOOOOO
BEEEP
*SSSTHMP!
ズーン!
I'VE GOT TO FIND A THIN SPOT IN THE HULL SOME-WHERE...
Zzz
THE PRISONERS ARE ESCAPING.
I THOUGHT SO... PRE-STRETCHED CABLES FOR THE MUSCLES IN THESE SUITS. USELESS!
*KANG
ガーン!

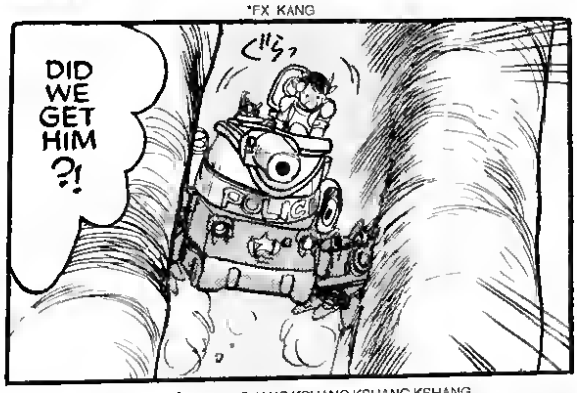
*FX A HA HA HA HA
あっ はっ はっ
はっ
*FX BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM
KILL HIM
KILL HIM
KILL HIM
KILL HIM!!
TANK POLICE
*FX WHAMM
ゴゥン!
YEEK!
*FX RMB RMB RMB
ゴゴゴ
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? COME ON, JUMP!
IS THAT LEONA?!
WHAT?!
*FX DRN DRN DRN DRN
ドドド

*FX BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
CRUSH THEM!!
YES, BOSS.
D... DOWN THERE... IT'S HER!
*FX BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
WHAT THE--?!
NICE CATCH!
TKP-41
*FX WHSSH
POLICE
GREEN-PEACE IS STILL IN THERE!!
MAX
MIN
*SKRASSH
EEK!
*BOOM
POLICE

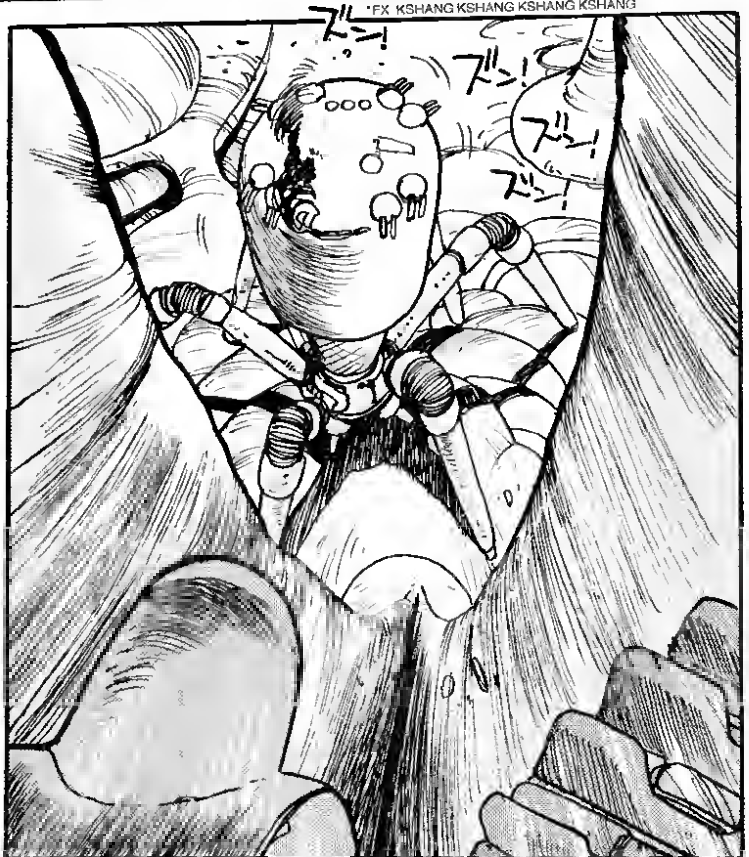
*VROOM
POLICE
*WRAM WRAM
WE JUST NEED TO GET ABOVE THEM -- A DIRECT HIT NEAR THE COCKPIT OUGHT TO FIX 'EM!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF RUNNING AWAY?!
IF WE CAN JUST FIND A WIND-SINK...!
SHE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE!
AFTER HER, YOU IDIOT!
BUT BOSS, WE'RE--
*FX VRMMMMMM
IT'S WORKING!
FULL THROTTLE!
ドドドドドド
ズン! ズズン!
*VZZ VZZZ
THE HULL'S THIN ENOUGH THAT I CAN TEAR IT WITH THIS WIMPY ARMORED SUIT! I'LL BET IT'S THIN EVERYWHERE EXCEPT FOR THE GUN TURRETS, TO SAVE WEIGHT!
*VRMMMM

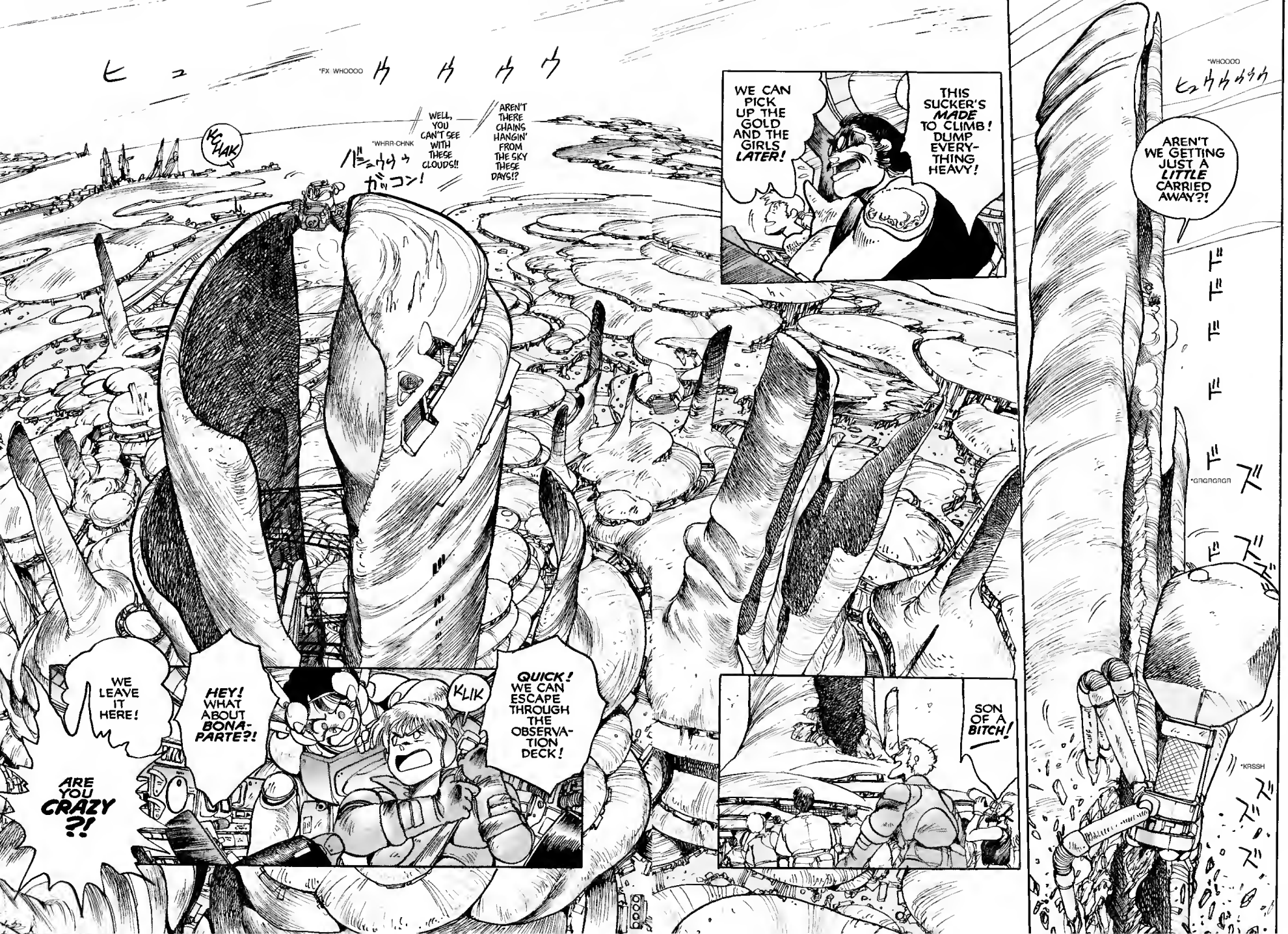

*DODODODODO
*WRAM
*WHKOOM


*FX GRRRRR
YOU GOT ME, YOU LITTLE #$@!!


*FX KANG
DID WE GET HIM ?!
POLICE

GEEZ, DIDN'T IT DO ANYTHING?! IF THEY GET UNDER US, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOOT!
NEITHER WILL THEY, SO WE'LL BE EVEN, AT LEAST!
BUT, LEONA ...!


*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

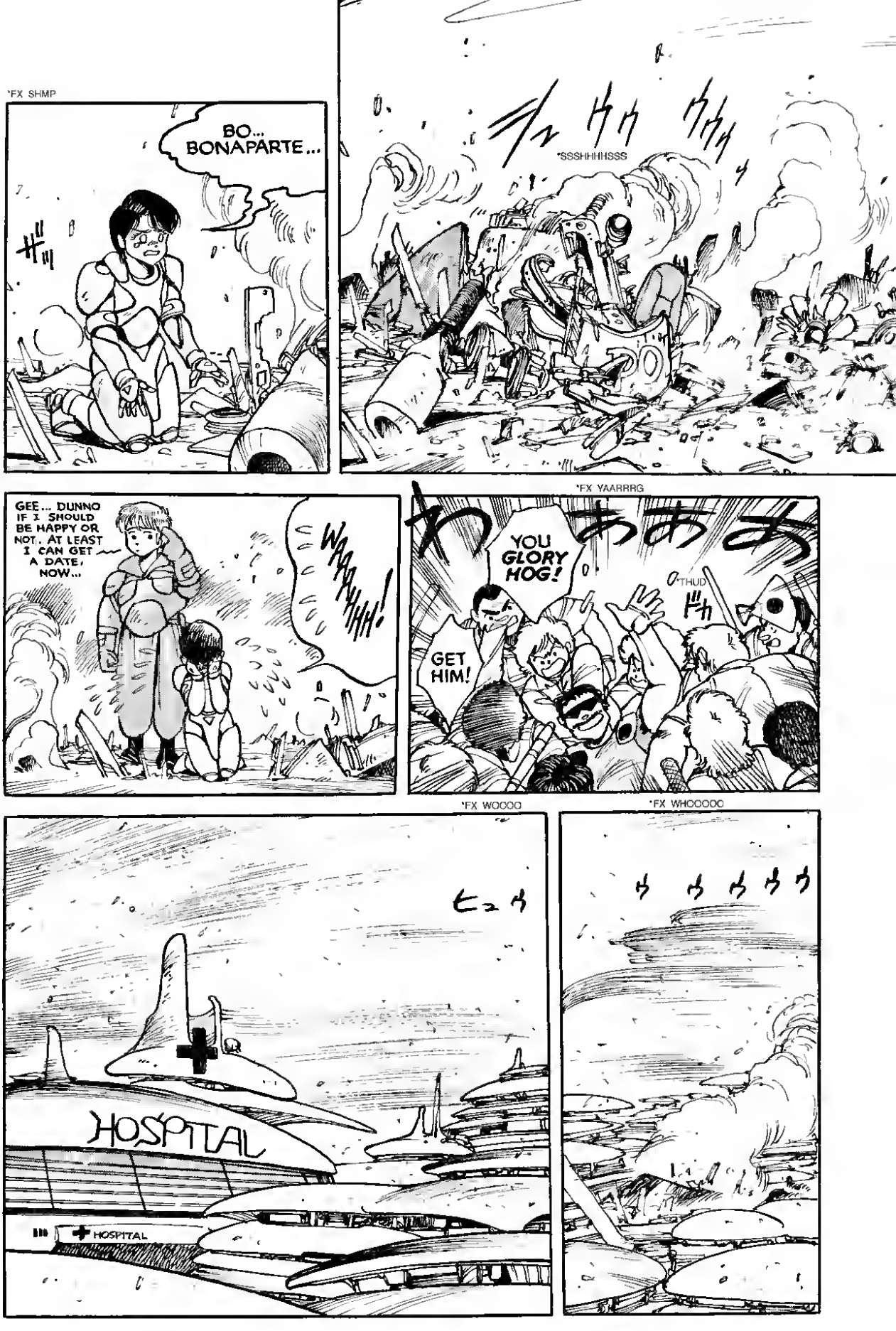

*FX WHOOOO
*WHIRR-CHINK
WELL, YOU CAN'T SEE WITH THESE CLOUDS!!
AREN'T THERE CHAINS HANGIN' FROM THE SKY THESE DAYS!?
KCHAK
WE CAN PICK UP THE GOLD AND THE GIRLS LATER!
THIS SUCKER'S MADE TO CLIMB! DUMP EVERY-THING HEAVY!
*WHOOOO
AREN'T WE GETTING JUST A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY?!
*GRARARR
*KRSSH
WE LEAVE IT HERE!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT BONA-PARTE?!
KLIK
QUICK! WE CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE OBSERVA-TION DECK!
SON OF A BITCH!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!

*FX KRK KRKK
JU-JUST OPEN THE HATCH FOR ME!
GET OUT OF IT! NOW!
*FX KRKK KRK
I--I CAN'T MOVE! THE BATTERIES FOR MY ARMORED SUIT RAN OUT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU JAPANESE ARE ALL KAMIKAZE CRAZY! I--
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?
Uh...
DAMN IT, IF THIS IS THE WAY THEY WANT IT, THEN WE'LL JUST CRASH INTO THEM AND TAKE THEM WITH US!
*FX ZUUUUN
Eh heh heh heh!
*KANG
Oooh, oooh! LOOKY OUT! YOU MIGHT FA-ALLL!
HAW HAW HAW! YOU GUYS ARE A SCREAM!
*FX WHOOOOO
OWW! MY FOOT'S CAUGHT ON SOME-THING!
LET ME GO! WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE BONAPARTE BEHIND!!
POLICE

*FX FMP
BEEP
klik
OOOPSIE! I SHOOK THE TOWER! SORRRY!
EEK!
*SWAY
*SWAY
*FX SPAK
Uh-oh
NO!
*SKRAK
*BLAM
POLICE
AIEEE!
MY BONA-PARTE !!

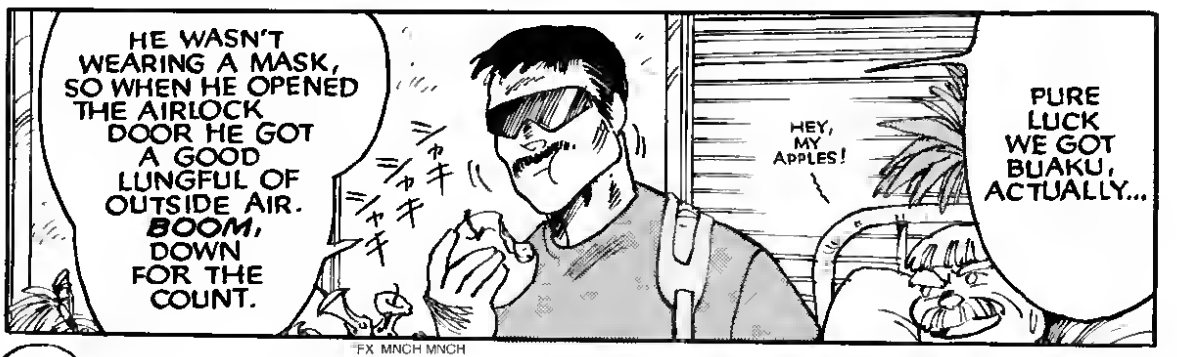
*FX WHAM
YAAH!
EEE!
*FX WHMP
HNN--
NNGK!
OWWW...
ガタン
*FX SKRASSH
ズズズ!

*FX POF
??
*FX BEEP SHHH
CON-FOUND IT!
*FX CHAK
Oh, YEAH! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
Oh, NO!
*FX SHHFFFF
koff koff
ずずずずず
I DID IT!
I ARRESTED HIM! ME!
あっはっ
はっは
WHERE'D HE COME FROM?!
SQUAD LEADER BRENTEN?!
*FX YA HA HA HA


*FX SHMP
BO... BONAPARTE...
*SSSHHHHSSS
GEE... DUNNO IF I SHOULD BE HAPPY OR NOT. AT LEAST I CAN GET A DATE, NOW...
WAAAHHH!
*FX YAARRRG
YOU GLORY HOG!
GET HIM!
*THUD
*FX WOOOO
HOSPITAL
HOSPITAL
*FX WHOOOOO

NO KIDDING, huh? LET'S TRY HIM WITH HOLLOW-POINTS NEXT TIME!
YES... TRULY, THIS IS THE MIRACULOUS HAND OF GOD IN MY LIFE...
MAYBE IT WAS JUST 9mm HARD-BALL, BUT IF THIS WAS A SERIOUS COMIC YOU'D BE DEAD AS A CAN OF TUNA, NOW.
THE DOC SAYS ONE BULLET WENT RIGHT THROUGH YOUR LUNGS.

SAY... MAYBE WE CAN USE "THE HAND OF GOD" TO DO A "GREENPEACE" CONVERSION ON YOU-- HOW ABOUT IT?
YEAH... AND WE FINALLY GOT THE BUAKU GANG, TOO.
TOUGH LUCK... ha, ha!
GUESS YOU'RE MOVING TO THE DEVELOPMENT BUREAU PRETTY SOON, hmm?


HE WASN'T WEARING A MASK, SO WHEN HE OPENED THE AIRLOCK DOOR HE GOT A GOOD LUNGFUL OF OUTSIDE AIR. BOOM, DOWN FOR THE COUNT.
シャキ シャキ シャキ
HEY, MY APPLES!
PURE LUCK WE GOT BUAKU, ACTUALLY...
FX: MNCH MNCH

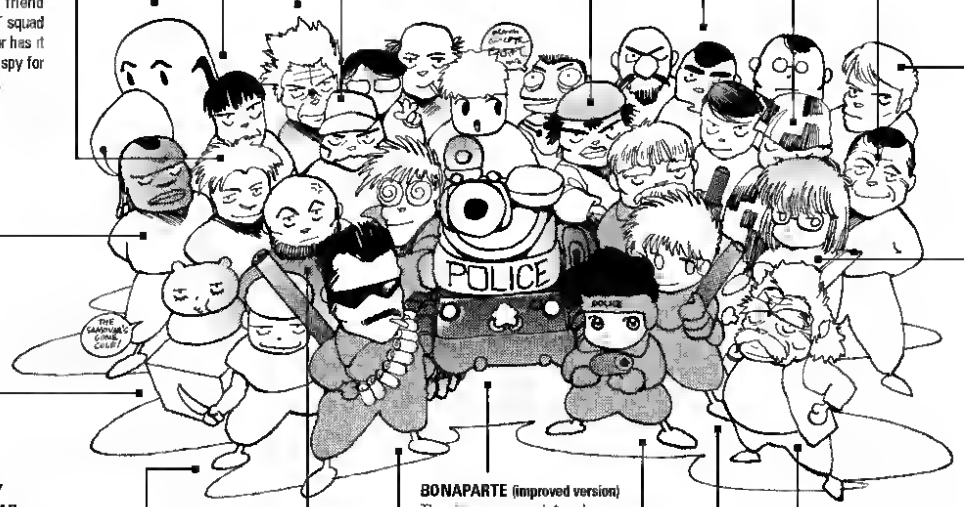
OUGHT TO BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
"IN THE PLACE OF EVIL, THERE YOU SHALL FIND FAITH." THAT'S TRUE, TOO.
MAN, I'M STUFFED.
WHERE EVIL LURKS, THE POLICE SHALL GO. WAY OF THE WORLD, PAL.
YOU HOGGED ALL THE CREDIT ANYWAY!

SQUAD LEADER BRENTEN!
WE'LL COME BACK TOMORROW AND BUG YOU AGAIN.
YEAH, YEAH. FIGURES... IT'S THE SECOND TIME, AFTER ALL.
EXCUSE ME... TWO MEN FROM INTERNAL SECURITY ARE HERE TO SEE YOU, SIR. THEY'D LIKE TO MEET YOU IN PRIVATE...
THAT'S ALL. SEE YOU.
YOU DID TWO THINGS WRONG. FIRST, YOU WEREN'T WEARING BODY ARMOR. SECOND, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING HOOKY FROM THE FIRING RANGE.
DID I REALLY SCREW UP...?
THANKS, BRENTEN ...
THANKS...
CHRIST, NOW WHAT?
CALLING ALL CARS... =klik=
YEAH, LEONA'S STILL MOPING ABOUT IT...

WHAT?!
GET ON THE HORN TO HQ!
*SKREEE
TO ALL UNITS IN TRANSIT...
BEEP
HUH?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
POLICE
*BRIINNGG
VREEE BAM E BAM
VREEE E
*FX BRIINNGG TAKKA TAKKA TAK TAK
?
*FX BAM
LEONA! QUICK! IT'S AN EMERGENCY MEETING-- WE NEED YOU!
HNK
AFTER ALL, POWER IS POWER! YOU ONLY NEED IT WHEN YOU NEED IT!
NYA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE!
STOP MOPING, GIRL!
AW, IT'S NOT THAT, CHIEF...

INVESTIGATIONS HAS SEALED OFF THE WHOLE CITY AND THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THEM RIGHT NOW. BUT IF THEY CAN'T FIND THEM WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS...
THE WHOLE BUAKU GANG BROKE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL!
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO SUGGEST BEFORE THEY ASSEMBLE YOUR NEW BONAPARTE, YOU'VE GOT TEN MINUTES TO GET--
POLICE
...THEY'RE GOING TO REINSTATE THE TANK POLICE AS AN INDEPENDENT STRIKE FORCE!
Er... IS IT YOUR NAP TIME, SIR?
CHIEF, THANKS TO YOU, MY SON PULLED THROUGH OKAY. HERE'S A LITTLE--
--TO THE FACTORY... huh?
*FX: HURRAH!
I WANT MORE LIGHT...!
I WANT A BIGGER MIRROR!
I WANT MORE GUNS!
お一!!!
ALL RIGHT, MEN, LET'S REALLY TAKE THEM TO THE CLEANERS NEXT TIME!

Newport station personnel are active in the sandy landfill region stretching between the Setouchi Canal and Osaka Bay, the Rokkou mountain range, and so forth. The Tank Police unit alone patrols an unusual area that includes Osaka, Okayama, and all of Awaji, but it's a shared unit in the Kansai region. Newport is always having arguments with other stations over jurisdiction, and as ninety percent of these arguments are over the tank unit, it is, frankly, the station chief's biggest headache. Overall, the Newport station is involved in so many drug-related cases that it's known as the "anti-drug station." There's a certain rivalry with the nearby Osaka International Airport, but because Osaka Bay is so huge and the tank police jurisdiction extends to the water's edge, one of Newport's biggest jobs is also anti-smuggling. Perhaps reflecting the fact that there is an international aspect to smuggling, Newport has few pure Japanese personnel assigned to it. True to Kobe's spirit, Newport is the first station in Japan to have a foreign chief.



Transferred to the Juvenile Welfare Section

DOG MASCOT
Still worried about that senseless appearance he made in a single panel of the manga

He just got married a week ago. All his old friends have suddenly turned shy about visiting him, so he's starting to feel a tad lonely.

THE MYSTERIOUS RASTA HEAD
He's not a policeman, but a friend of the SWAT squad leader. Rumor has it he's really a spy for the Auditors.

SUPERINTENDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
With his eldest son having postponed entering university for the third year in a row, he's got a lot of headaches these days. He's also been feeling some conflicting emotions ever since his younger daughter decided to get married.

SUPERINTENDENT OF MAINTENANCE
One of the surplus employees who came to the station from Kawahagi Heavy Industries when it was taken over by the Critical Science Development Agency ("Critical Science" sounds "heavy," but it's more along the lines of today's "general science"). Loves his family, and *sake*.

Used to be a French national but is now ecstatic because he finally obtained his long-dreamed-of Japanese citizenship. Loves Japanese *Noh* theater.

A drowned corpse discovered three days previously at the end of Pier 7. According to the coroner, death was the result of a smashed skull caused by a blow with a blunt instrument. An investigation is still continuing. R.I.P.

A Christian from India, he is ideologically opposed to fingerprinting.

SUPERINTENDENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
He managed to avoid a divorce, but the rift between him and his wife is going to be unbridgeable for some time to come. He needs to be more careful about those extramarital affairs.

Head-hunted, he quickly rose to the rank of inspector.

CRITICALLY ILL RED BEAR
The Soviet Union has adopted the policy of compromising with the imperialists, but in elementary schools they're still teaching that imperialism will eventually self-destruct.

SWAT TEAM LEADER
A former runner-up in a national judo championship. With his fifth *dan* black belt test coming up soon, he's spending some tense days.

BONAPARTE (improved version)
There's a proposal to change Bonaparte's bullet-proof rubber caterpillar treads into tires. Only one vote against it.

LEONA OZAKI
She's currently in the police hospital with a broken left arm and leg from an auto accident. She reportedly won't be back at work for another two months.

CHIEF
He apparently started doing aerobics in an attempt to reduce his gut. The word "apparently" has to be used here because no one has actually seen him doing aerobics ... or even wants to. With diets and cavities that need filling, there's not much fun in the Chief's life these days.

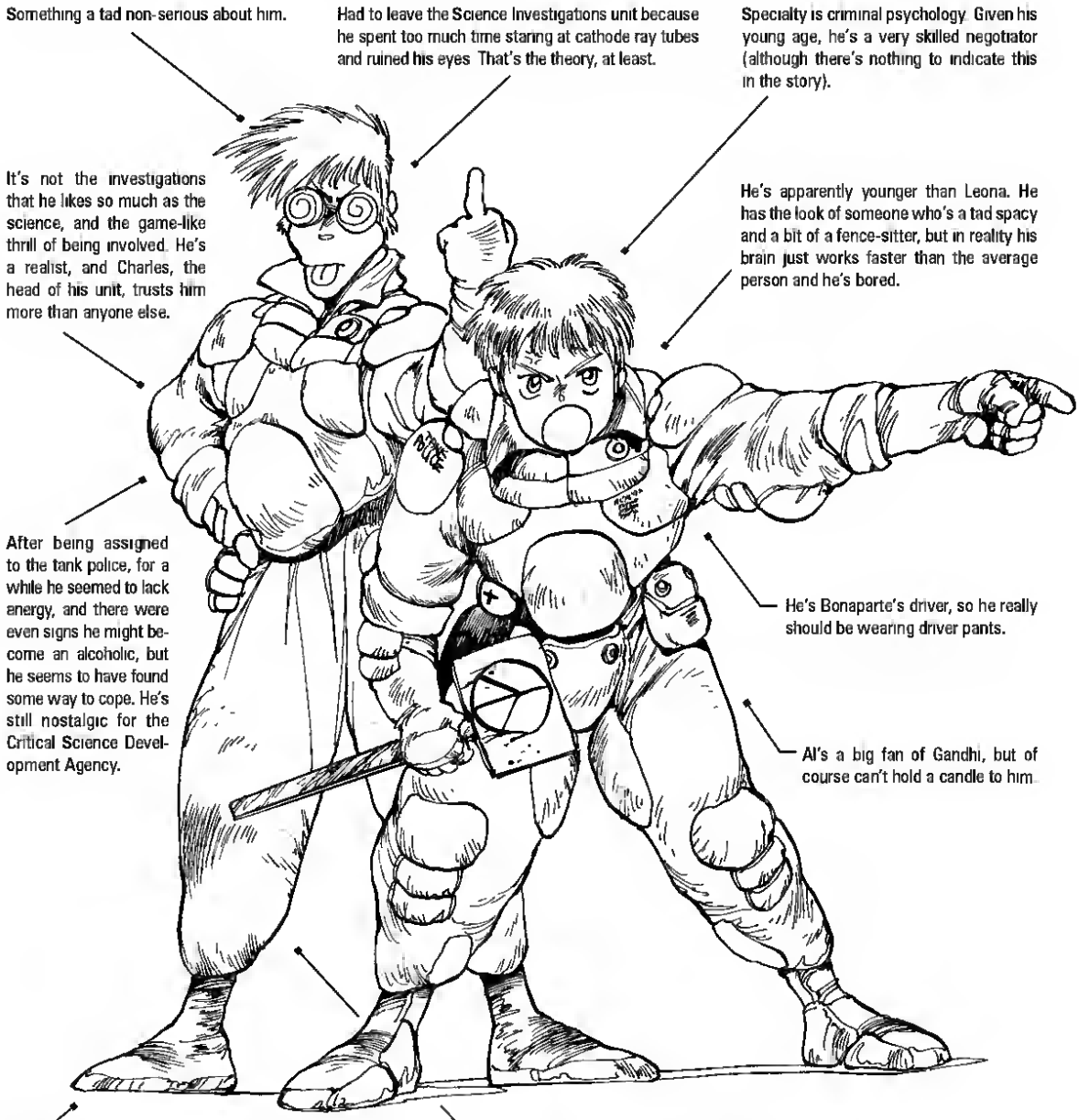
CHARLIE NAM
After recently receiving a diagnosis of cancer, he's been rather depressed. The station's taking a collection for him to help cover the costs of the operation, but it's being done secretly.

INSPECTOR BRENTEN
After obtaining a firing device and three rounds, he's happy. On Tuesday next week, he's going to take his family fishing at Sumahama. Negotiations are currently taking place for an appearance in *Appleseed*.

AL CU AD SOLTE
He plans to propose to Leona Ozaki as soon as she recovers. All he can think of every day is how to best stage the proposal.

MISS BEACHAM
She's on a long vacation. It's apperently for a happy reason, but people worry about her future because she quarrels a lot with her live-in boyfriend. She was in charge of raising money during the Nam Aid program.

Al Cu Ad Solte originally had nothing to do with the tank unit and, as a top graduate from university and officer-candidate, should have spent the rest of his life at a desk job. He gave up the opportunity to work in the Investigations Section, however, and applied five times to be transferred to the tank unit. He says it was because he wanted to do something different from his father, who is a top official in the agency. You wouldn't know it from his mild-mannered disposition, but something about the action-oriented and somewhat barbaric activities of the tank unit may have had a powerful appeal to him. This may also be a reason he's attracted to Leona.


Something a tad non-serious about him.
Had to leave the Science Investigations unit because he spent too much time staring at cathode ray tubes and ruined his eyes. That's the theory, at least.
Specialty is criminal psychology. Given his young age, he's a very skilled negotiator (although there's nothing to indicate this in the story).
It's not the investigations that he likes so much as the science, and the game-like thrill of being involved. He's a realist, and Charles, the head of his unit, trusts him more than anyone else.
He's apparently younger than Leona. He has the look of someone who's a tad spacy and a bit of a fence-sitter, but in reality his brain just works faster than the average person and he's bored.
After being assigned to the tank police, for a while he seemed to lack energy, and there were even signs he might become an alcoholic, but he seems to have found some way to cope. He's still nostalgic for the Critical Science Development Agency.
He's Bonaparte's driver, so he really should be wearing driver pants.
Al's a big fan of Gandhi, but of course can't hold a candle to him.
Has no real name. Was originally in Science Investigations, but at an official function said something that offended his boss and was therefore assigned to the tank police. Had a fiancée but lost her when he was reassigned.
He's apparently very busy currently with the anti-nuclear movement. Also involved in research designed to enable partial use of biological brains to control computers. Participates in development of biochips that use nerve tissue. (Basically, he's a bit of an oddball who occasionally harasses people good-naturedly and then departs the scene.)

DOMINION™

PART II

TODAY'S WEATHER REPORT INDICATES PARTICULARLY DENSE BACTERIA CLOUDS...
POLICE
...SO BE SURE TO DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR MASK FILTER BEFORE GOING ON OUTSIDE DUTY!
ZZZ
UH-OH
WANTED
WE ANTICIPATE A HIGHER INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN THOSE AREAS THAT HAVE REDUCED VISIBILITY.
POLICE
H.I.T. HIBERNATION THEORY
POLICE
WE HAVE WINDSINKS REPORTED IN EIGHT LOCATIONS... WE'LL BE REINFORCING OUR PATROLS IN THOSE DISTRICTS.
IT'S PRETTY COLD OUT THERE, FOLKS, SO *HUSTLE* AND WORK UP A SWEAT!
BUY APPLE-SEED, OKAY?
AND DON'T FORGET THE DIRTY PAIR
AND OUTLANDERS AND CYBER 7
BOO! HISS!

*FX: TAKKA TAKKA

*FX: BRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAKTAK

THEY CALL THAT THING THE ***IRON WORM***, RIGHT? WELL, THE DESERT'S SO HUGE WE'LL NEVER FIND THEM-- ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR IT TO COME ASHORE IN SOME CITY.

I IMAGINE HE'S INVESTIGATING THE THEFT OF THAT DESERT REFORESTATION PROJECT ***SAND SUBMARINE***. ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE BUAKU GANG...

HEY, REMEMBER THAT PICK-POCKET IN WARD TWO?

YOU MEAN THE SQUAD COMMANDER..? HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

WHERE'S INSPECTOR BRENTEN?

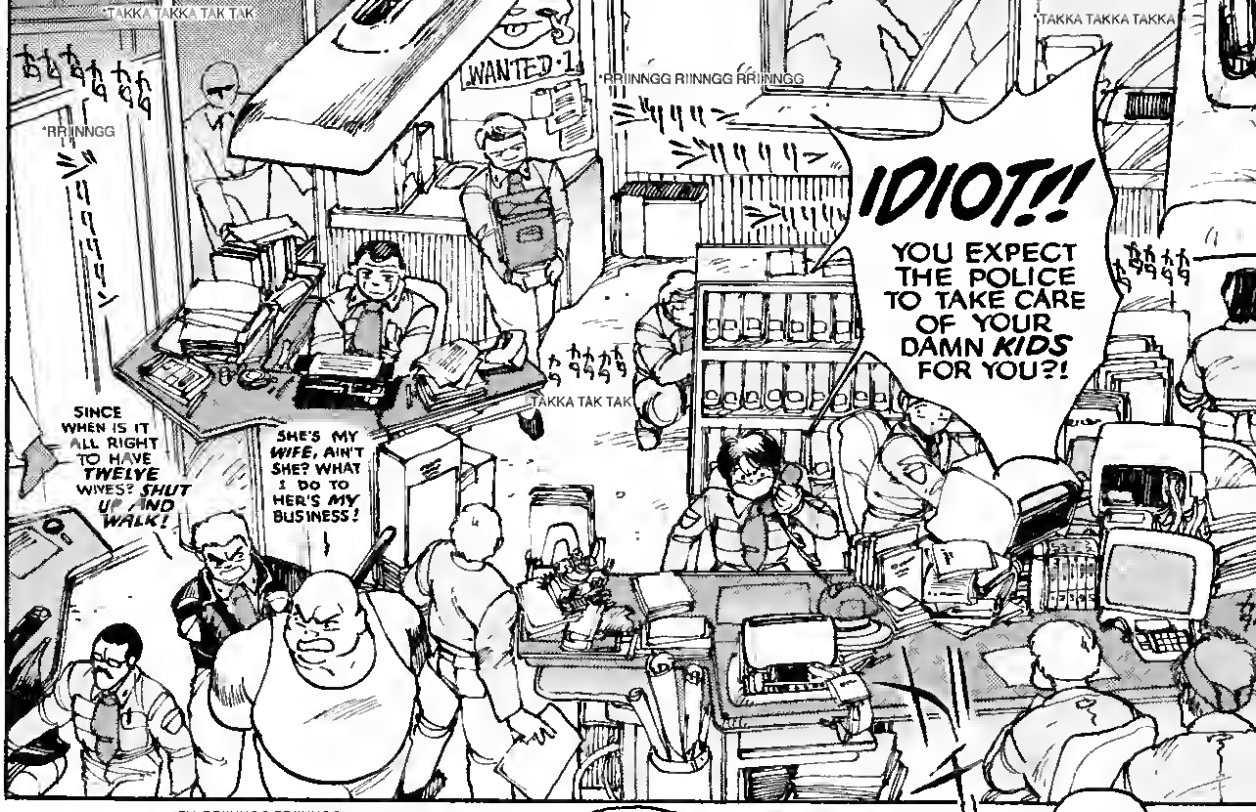
*FX: BRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAK

SO JET OFF TO ACAPULCO OR HONOLULU, WHY DON'T YOU...?

MAN, YOU COULD ***DIE*** ON STAKE-OUT ON A DAY LIKE THIS!

DON'T FORGET WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT DISTRICTS THAT GET WIND-SINKS IN THEM FOR MORE THAN A WEEK OR SO-- IT THROWS THE BIO-CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL GROWTH OUT OF PHASE AND LOWERS YOUR LAND VALUE...

WANT TO TRADE BEATS TODAY? I'M HOUSE-HUNTING.

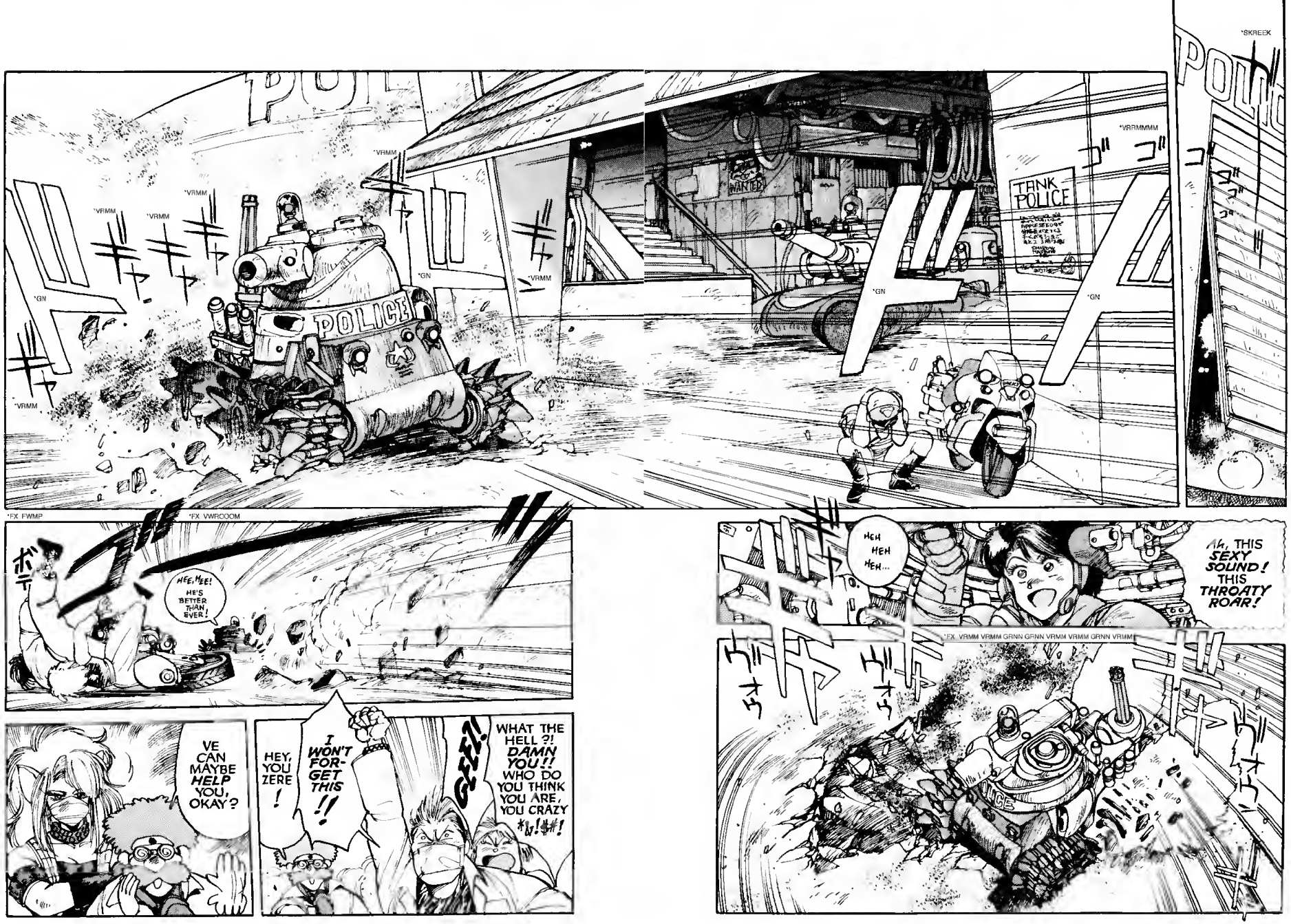

*TAKKA TAKKA TAK TAK
WANTED
*RRIINNGG
*RRIINNGG RRIINNGG RRIINNGG
*TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA
IDIOT!!
YOU EXPECT THE POLICE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR DAMN KIDS FOR YOU?!
TAKKA TAK TAK
SINCE WHEN IS IT ALL RIGHT TO HAVE TWELVE WIVES? SHUT UP AND WALK!
SHE'S MY WIFE, AIN'T SHE? WHAT I DO TO HER'S MY BUSINESS!

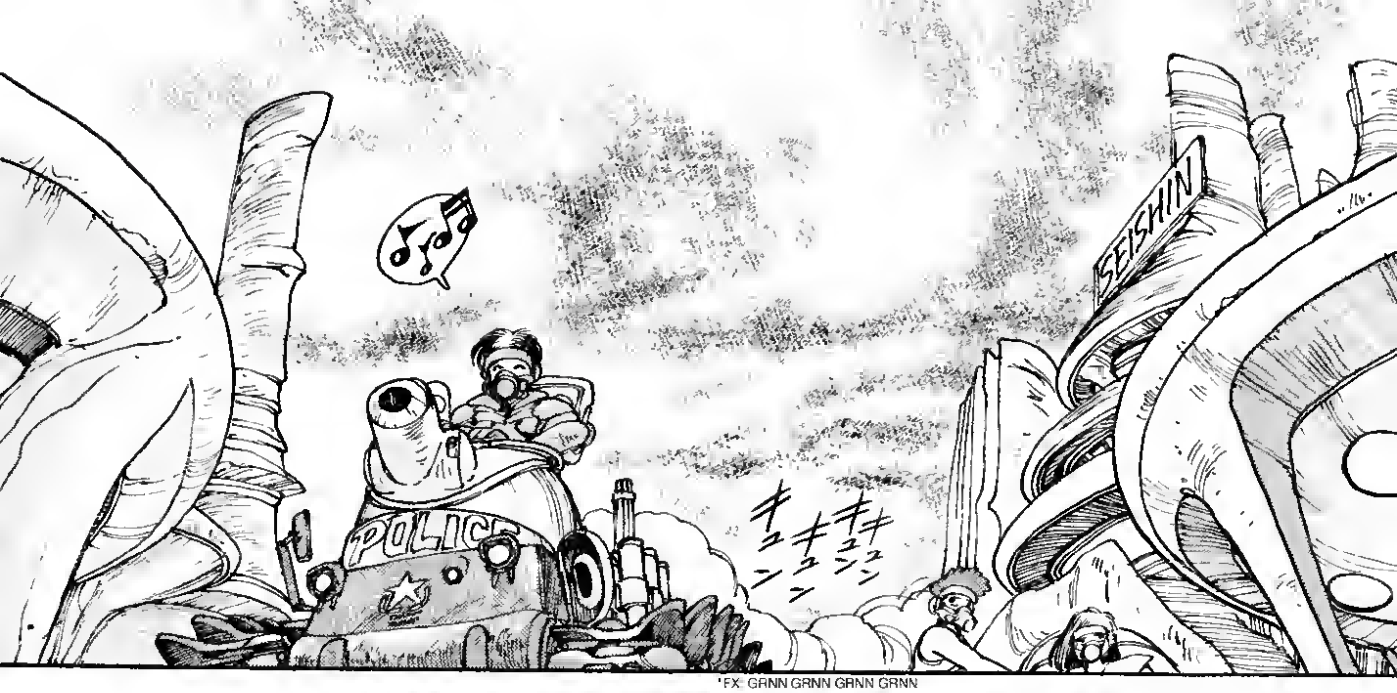
*book NUCLEAR INCIDENTS

WORKIN' DAY AND NIGHT, MAN OF GOD... PUT A SOCK IN IT, WILLYA?
BRENTEN!! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS?! WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL--
*BZZZ
*KRNK
TELL HER I'M ALL OUT OF "NASTIES"*-- HAVE HER REQUISITION SOME MORE!
POLICE

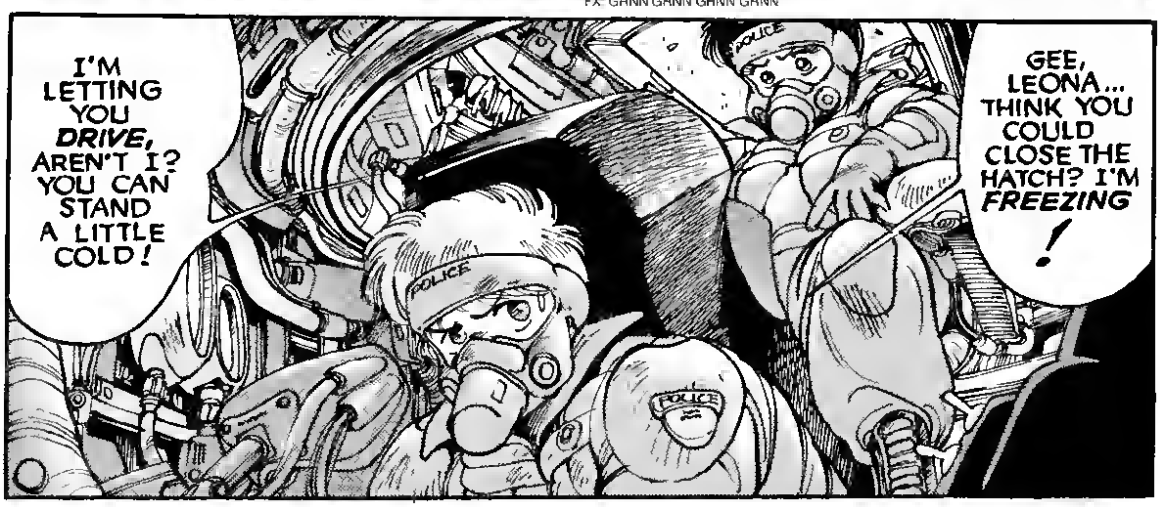
*NICKNAME FOR A TYPE OF CANNON ROUND

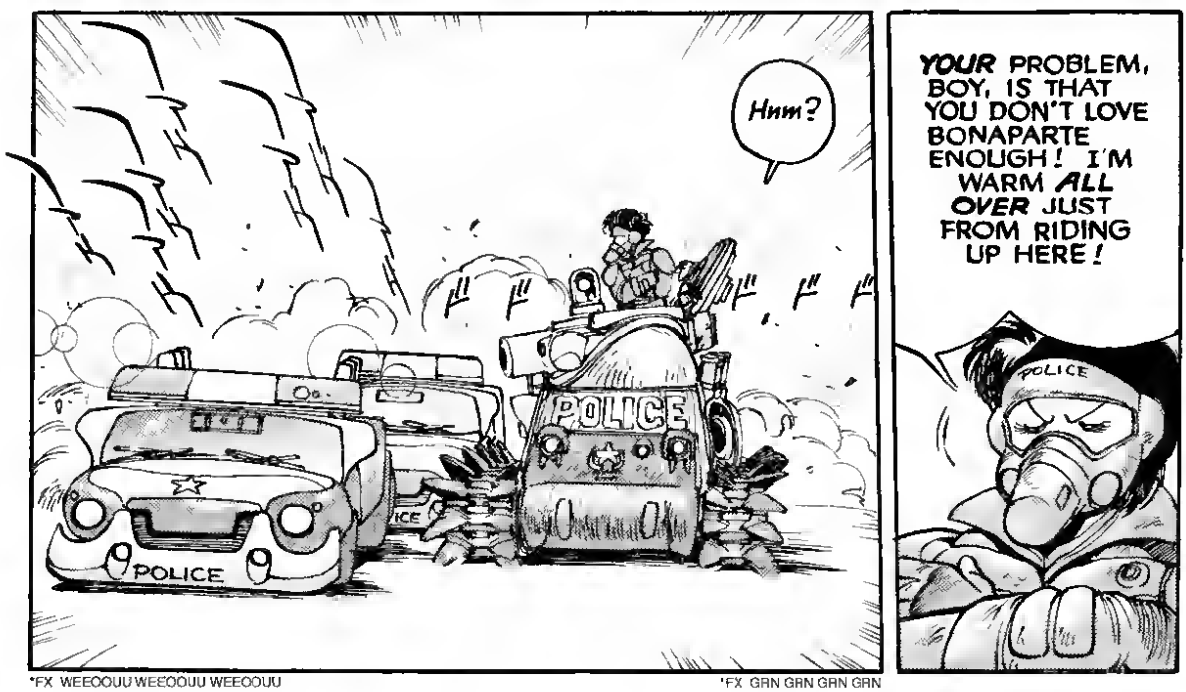
CH-CHIEF! HOLD IT! STOP!!
YEEOW!
I THOUGHT THE SAYING WAS, "TO WAKE UP, PUT PEPPER IN YOUR SHOES"...
YOU MUST BE SLEEPY!! HERE! LET ME GRIND SOME PEPPER INTO YOUR EYES!!
NYAHAHA!!
*FX. AH HA HA
あっはっは
TH' LITTLE BUGGERS SAID THEY'D HAUNT ME IN MY SLEEP IF I DIDN'T SHOOT THEM ALL RIGHT AWAY-- MISSION FROM GOD, eh?
HAW HAW HAW!
FOUND A WHOLE DUMP OF 10mm AMMO ROTTING AWAY IN A HIDDEN CORNER OF THE FIRING RANGE.
THIS MORNING I REPLACED HIS OIL WITH A LIGHTER WEIGHT, SO HE'S ALL SET FOR WINTER!
THEY'RE BURNING... LIKE HE'S POSSESSED OR SOME-THING!
HEY, THAT'S MY HEATER!
DID YOU SEE BRENTEN'S EYES TODAY?
THE CHIEF SURE IS BOUNCY TODAY... DOESN'T THE COLD WEATHER GET TO HIM...?
*FX. BRRIINNNG
IT'S PATROL TIME!!
POLICE
SO GET GOING!
WHAT?! WE'VE GOT TO WARM UP BONA-PARTE!
Huh? WE'VE STILL GOT TWENTY MINUTES, DON'T WE...?


*VRMM
*VRMM
*VRMM
*VRMM
*VRMM
*GN
*GN
POLICE
*VRMMMMM
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
*GN
*GN
WANTED
TANK POLICE
*SKREEK
*FX FWMP
*FX VWROOOM
HEE, HEE! HE'S BETTER THAN EVER!
HEH HEH HEH...
Ah, THIS SEXY SOUND! THIS THROATY ROAR!
*FX. VRMM VRMM GRNN GRNN VRMM VRMM GRNN VRMM
VE CAN MAYBE HELP YOU, OKAY?
HEY, YOU ZERE!
I WON'T FOR-GET THIS!!
GET!
WHAT THE HELL?! DAMN YOU!! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, YOU CRAZY *&!#*!



*FX: GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN



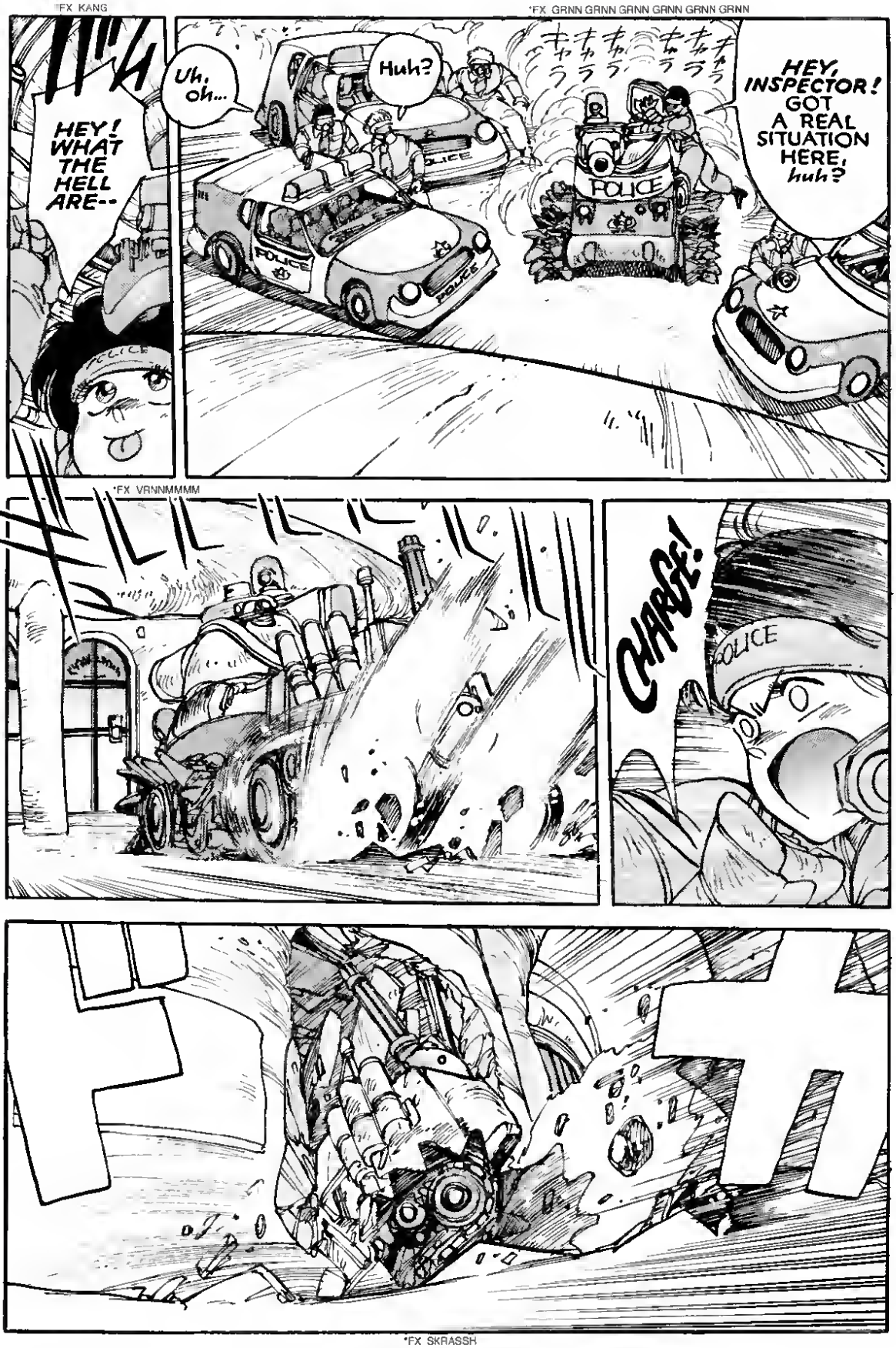


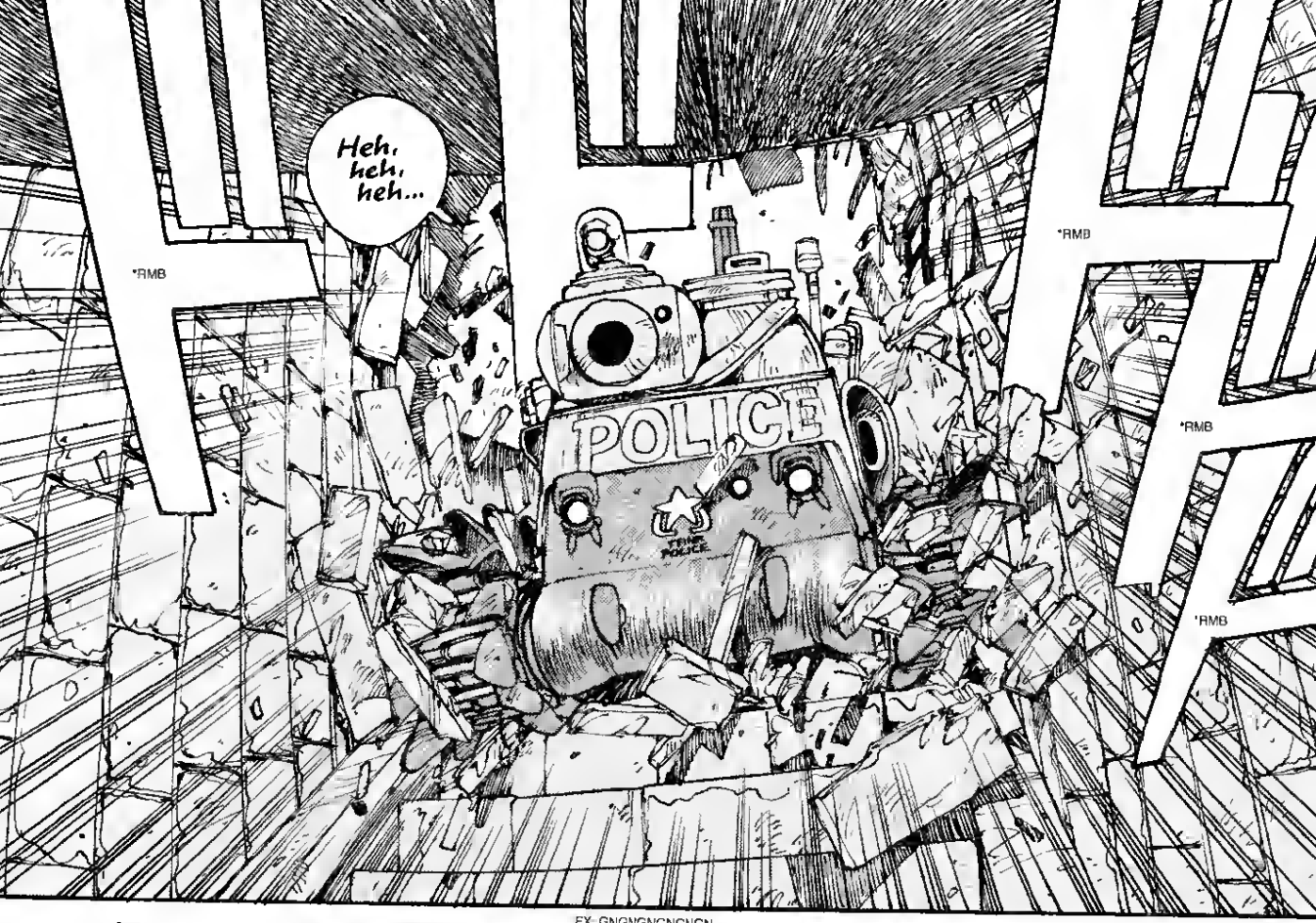
*FX: WEEOOUU WEEOOUU WEEOOUU

*FX: GRN GRN GRN GRN

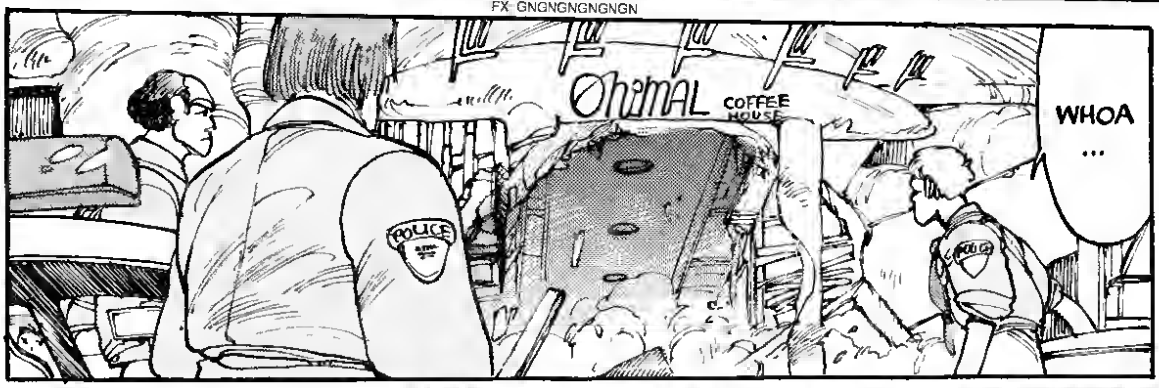
SO CALL THEM UP, ALREADY!
WE'VE GOT A RADIO, YOU KNOW!
YEEK!
HEY! YOU THERE!
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
I BET! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS SCAN OF THE INSIDE OF THEIR TRUNK-- TRAFFIC BARRICADES AND RIFLES!
THEY'RE SAYING IT'S NOTHING!
TANK? WHAT TANK? I SEE NO TANK!
THE CHIEF SAID NOT TO TELL THE TANK JOCKS ANYTHING...
HEY, SHE'S STILL FOLLOWING US!
*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
BEEP SHHHH
HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED HIM YET?
SKRCH
ALL RIGHT! IT'S ON!
POLICE
THEY'RE HEADING WEST-- THEY'LL LEAVE THE WHOLE EAST END UNPROTECTED! WITH ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE THESE DAYS, THE CROOKS WON'T TAKE LONG TO CATCH ON TO THAT...
AL-- TUNE INTO THE TV NEWS SIDEBAND!
*FX GRNN GRNN

*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT... WHAT? THE HOSTAGE'S FAMILY...? SWAT?
GOT IT.
Huh? REPEAT!
FORGET IT! HE WON'T TALK TO OUR NEGOTIATOR!
OKAY!
*KRANG
*FX KSSHHH
POLICE
*FX WEEOOUU
... I THINK WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS, CAPTAIN!
WE ALREADY LOST ONE DOG ON THE STAIRWAY, AND NOW THE OTHERS ARE TOO SPOOKED TO GO IN...
ACCORDING TO THE OWNER, IT'S GOT PERFECT DRAINAGE, SO WE CAN'T FLOOD HIM OUT... NO, NO, THAT'S NO GOOD, SIR.
IT'S AN UNDER-GROUND COFFEE SHOP, JUST ONE ENTRANCE ... REAL NARROW.
*FX WEEOOUU
...WOULDN'T EVEN SCRATCH BONA-PARTE'S ARMOR.
JUST A BERETTA .380 AUTO-MATIC, I HEAR...
IF YOU COME OUT PEACEFULLY, WE WON'T--
LOOKS LIKE SOME MIDDLE-AGED GUY'S GOT A WAITER HOSTAGE.
HE ARMED ?
POLICE
WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE ?


*FX KANG
HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE--
Uh, oh...
Huh?
*FX GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN
POLICE
HEY, INSPECTOR! GOT A REAL SITUATION HERE, huh?
*FX VRNNMMMM
CHARGE!
*FX SKRASSH

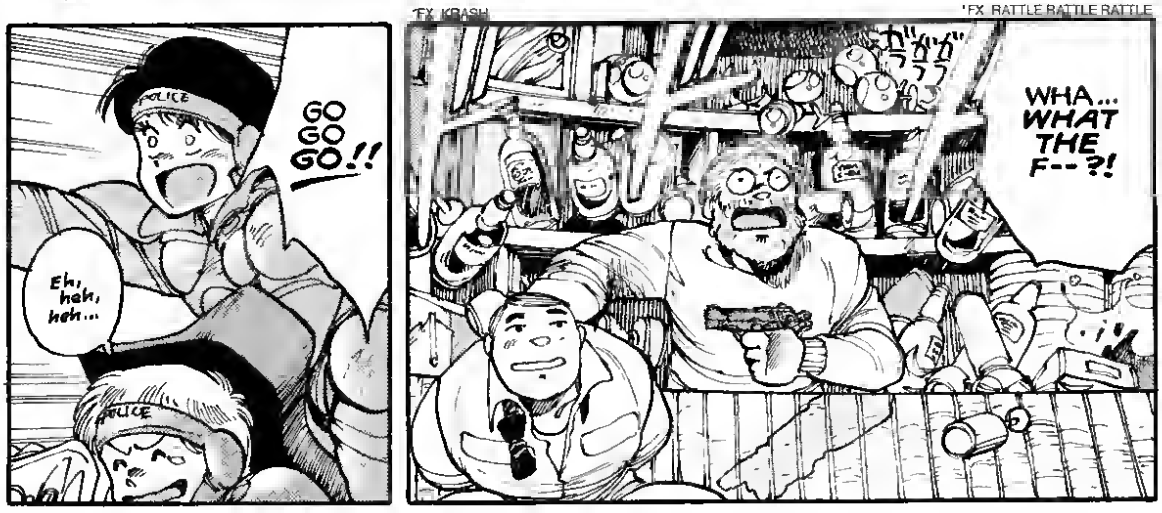


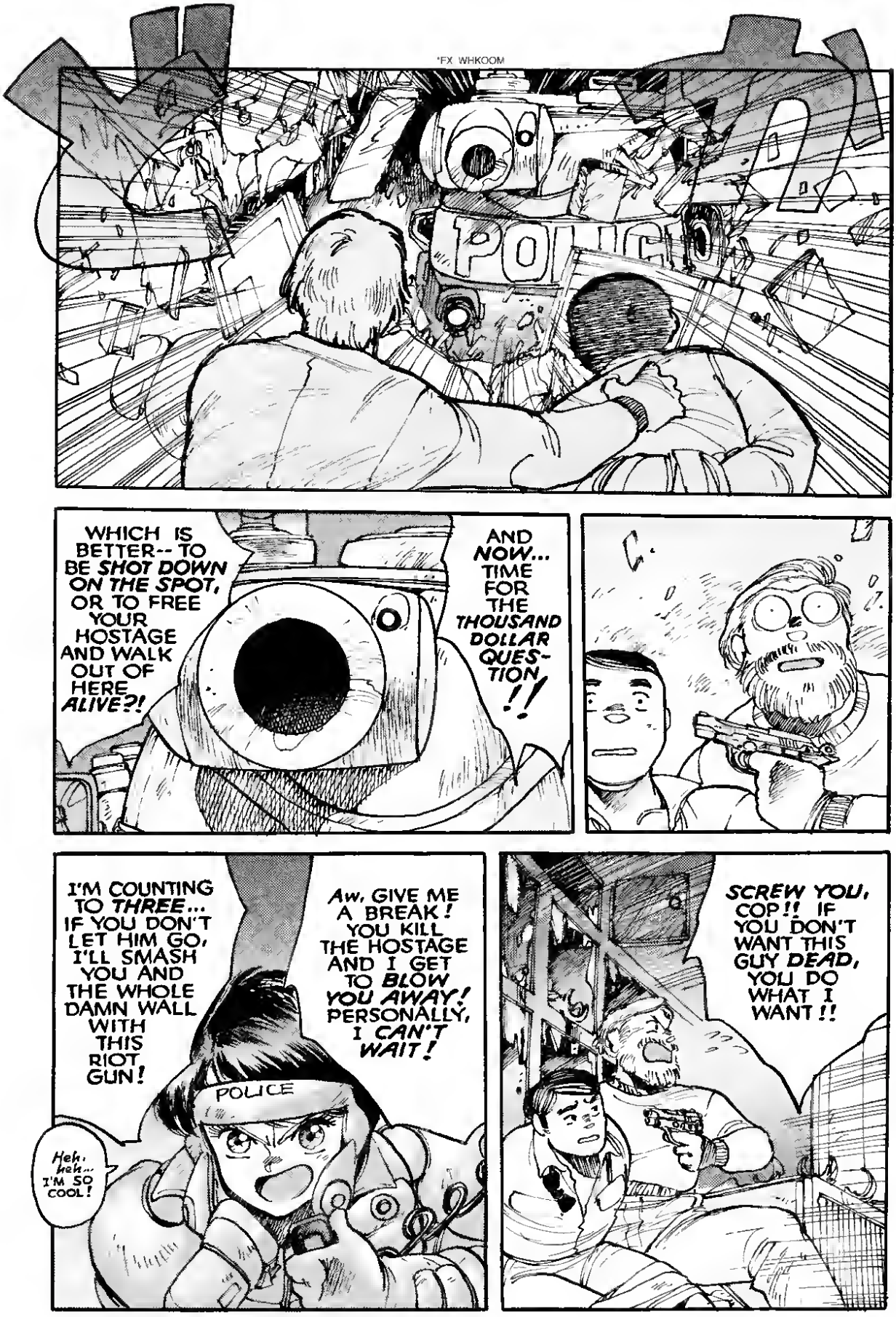
FX: GNGNGNGNGN



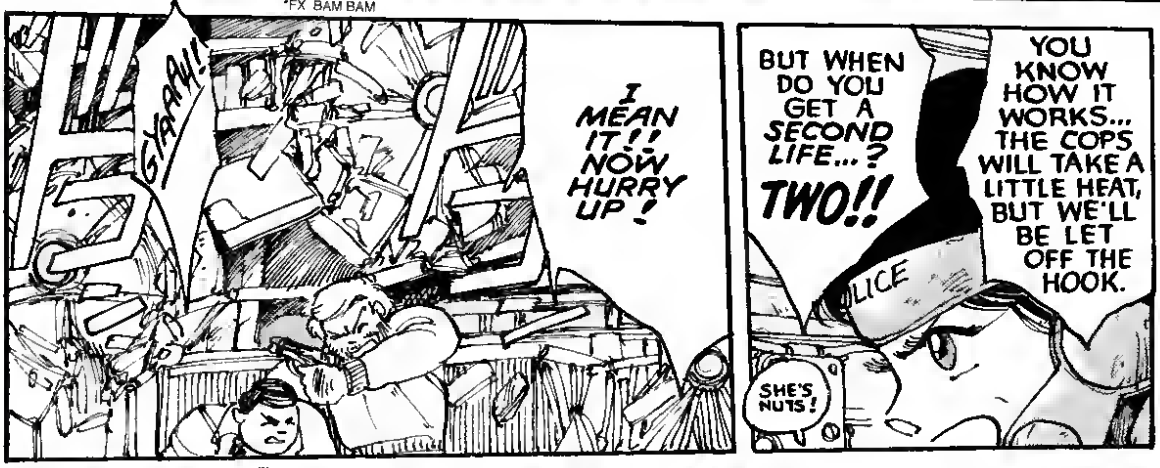
*FX: KRASH

*FX: RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

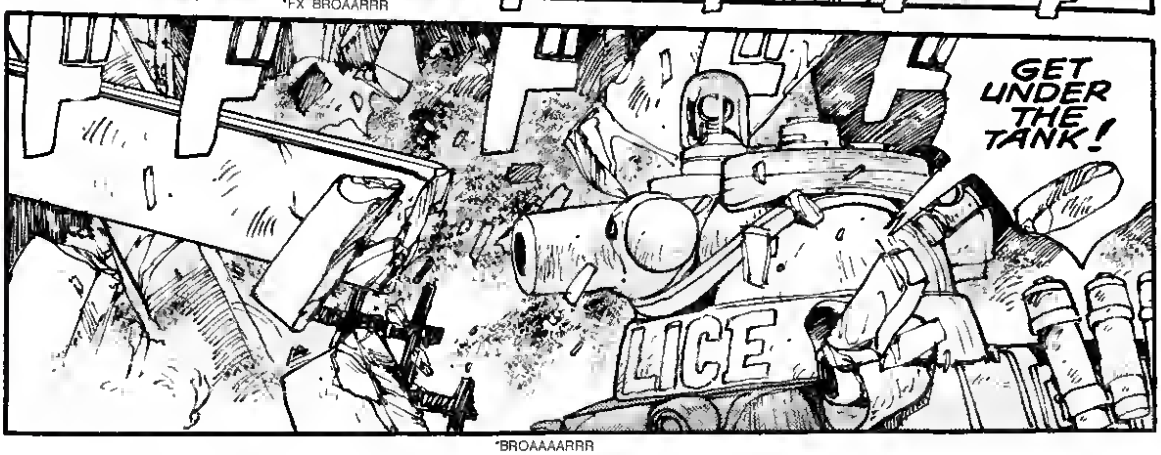



*FX WHKOOM
POLICE
WHICH IS BETTER-- TO BE SHOT DOWN ON THE SPOT, OR TO FREE YOUR HOSTAGE AND WALK OUT OF HERE ALIVE?!
AND NOW... TIME FOR THE THOUSAND DOLLAR QUES-TION!!
I'M COUNTING TO THREE... IF YOU DON'T LET HIM GO, I'LL SMASH YOU AND THE WHOLE DAMN WALL WITH THIS RIOT GUN!
POLICE
Heh, heh... I'M SO COOL!
Aw, GIVE ME A BREAK! YOU KILL THE HOSTAGE AND I GET TO BLOW YOU AWAY! PERSONALLY, I CAN'T WAIT!
SCREW YOU, COP!! IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS GUY DEAD, YOU DO WHAT I WANT!!

*FX BAM BAM


GYAAH!
I MEAN IT!! NOW HURRY UP!
BUT WHEN DO YOU GET A SECOND LIFE...? TWO!!
YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS... THE COPS WILL TAKE A LITTLE HEAT, BUT WE'LL BE LET OFF THE HOOK.
SHE'S NUTS!

*FX BROAARRR



*BROAAAARRR

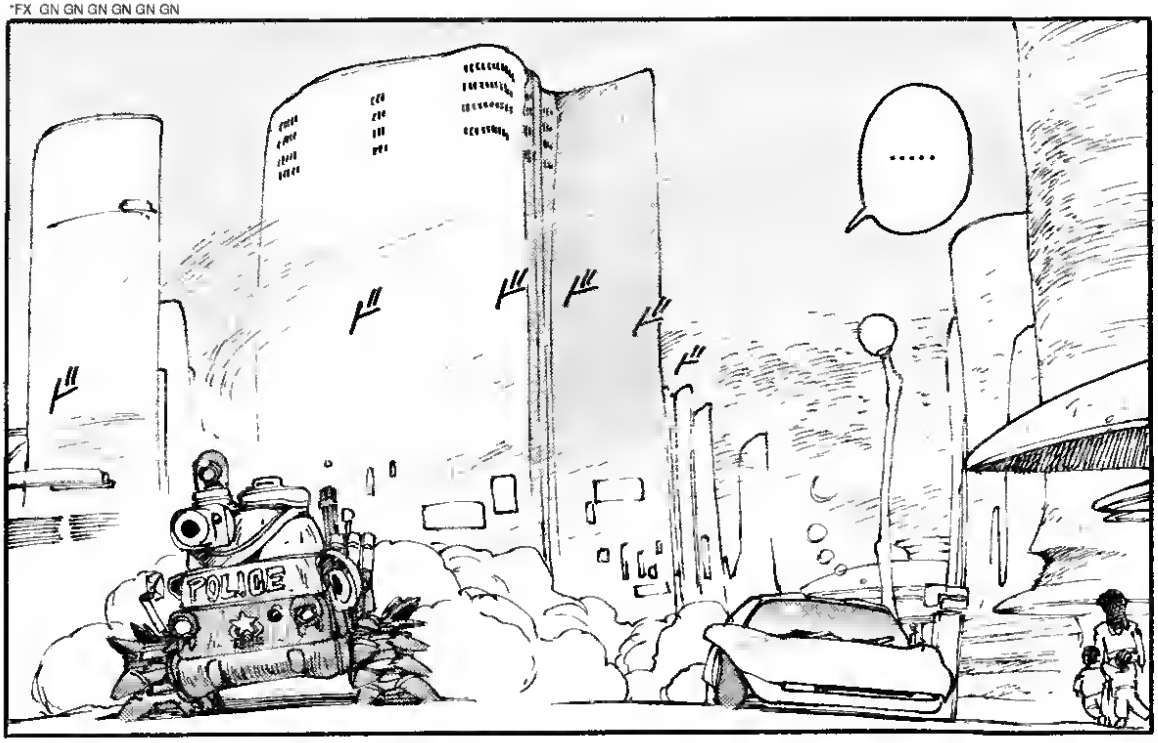
*FX SLAM
AAAHHH!
*FX BADOOOM
SKRRSH
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
KRM KRM KRM
SKRASH
POLICE
KRSH
KA DOM
*FX ZANN
ULK!
THROW DOWN YOUR GUN! HANDS IN THE AIR!

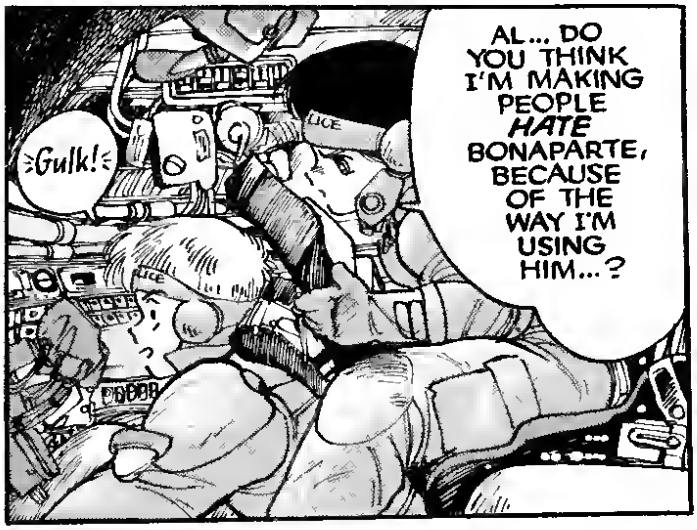
RIGHT.
Eheh, heh... WE-- WE WERE ON PATROL, YOU KNOW, WHEN WE ENCOUNTERED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY... heh... AND ABOUT THAT DAMAGE--
*FX WEEOOO WEEOOO
=gulp!=
Uh, oh... THE CHIEF!
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT... ANYTHING YOU SAY MAY BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW...
*KLIK
*FX WEEOOO WEEOOO
POLICE
*FX WEEOOO
WE'LL MAKE A FORMAL STATE-MENT AT HEAD-QUARTERS.
LATER!
CHIEF, ABOUT THIS LATEST INCI-DENT--
*FX WEEOOO WEEOOO
OIK?
WELL DONE, YOU TWO.
*FX WEEOO
LET'S GO, AL.
HE WASN'T... HE WAS DEMANDING THAT WE EXECUTE SOME MASS MURDERER WHO WAS PAROLED TO A MENTAL HOSPITAL... I HEARD HIM SAY SOME-THING ABOUT HIS FAMILY...
THANK GOD!
YOU'RE OKAY!
THESE MARKINGS ARE FROM A REPLICA GUN MANUFACTURER... ANOTHER REBUILT REPLIGUN? IT'S THE SAME MODEL AS THAT LAST ONE WE CONFISCATED A WHILE BACK, REMEMBER? I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT GUY'S A PRO...
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE

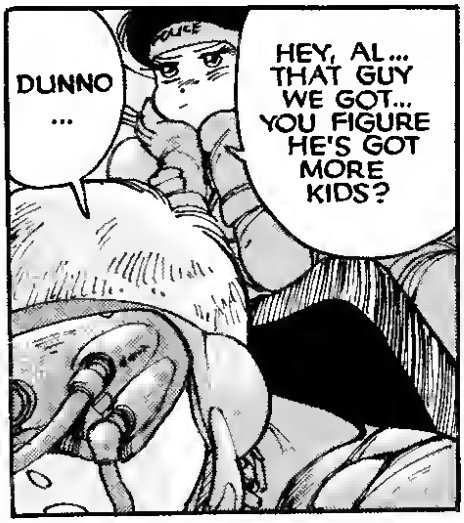
*FX KLIK
CONVERTED REPLI-GUNS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE REAL THING, FOLKS! THIS HERE'S A PEACEFUL COUNTRY-- YOU GO AROUND ACTIN' LIKE A GANGSTER AND YOU'LL GET BLOWN AWAY, YOU PINHEADS! 'NUFF SAID!
I... I SEE!
*FX TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG
DO THE TANK POLICE HAVE ANY COMMENTS TO MAKE ABOUT THIS ARREST?
*FX BAM
1st
YOU CALL THIS JUSTICE ?!
SOMEBODY HELP US!
QUICK! CALL A LAWYER!
*FX RRIINNGG TAK TAK
THAT BASTARD KILLED MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER!! GODDAMN IT!
*FX KRANGG
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST BRIBED ANOTHER CON TO SLIP SOME POISON INTO HIS FOOD.
C'MON, COOL IT, OKAY?
*FX TAKKA TAKKA
DON'T TALK SO MUCH, GUY... IT'LL HURT YOU IN COURT.
*FX KLIK KLIK
THAT BASTARD'S INHUMAN!! HE SHOULD HAVE GOT THE DEATH SENTENCE, BUT YOU SCUM LET HIM--
HER BEIN' JAPANESE, TOO... KINDA SURPRISING SHE WENT OUT ON HER OWN THAT WAY... THEY'RE BIG ON GOIN' WITH THE FLOW. TOUGH KID, THOUGH... WENT RIGHT BACK OUT.
DON'T LIGHT UP NEAR THE AMMO, OKAY?
HUH! YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA BOTHER THAT LITTLE AIR-HEAD?
NOPE!
HEY, CHUCK-- GOT A MATCH?
TOUGH SHIT FOR THAT GUY, huh? FIGURE EVEN LEONA DOESN'T FEEL TOO GOOD ABOUT THIS ONE...
DANGER
YEOW!
JEEZ, LEONA... SCARE ME TO DEATH!
AAAH-CHOO!!
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN

*FX FLASH
WHAT ...?
CHIEF... !
BRENTEN !
*FX CHK
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT...
HEY, LOOKIN' GOOD, MAN! HOW'S THE LAB WORK?
*FX THMP THMP KLIK
I SAID THAT'S ALL!
SORRY... THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU.
BUT, SIR...
CHIEF, JUST ONE MORE QUESTION ...!
C'MON, C'MON... OUTA THE WAY!
SURE.. SORRY!
16TV
I... I NEVER DREAMED THE CSDA WOULD BE SUCH A LOUSY PLACE...
WELL... ACTUALLY, I QUIT.
NO KIDDIN'! WHY?
I'VE, er, I'VE BEEN RE-ASSIGNED... BACK TO THE TANK POLICE.
WANTED
.....
CHRIST, I WAS AN IDIOT! LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING THERE...
THOSE BASTARDS... JUST TOOK ME IN SO THEY COULD STEAL MY WORK AND PUT THEIR OWN NAMES ON IT! DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME DECENT EQUIPMENT TO WORK WITH...

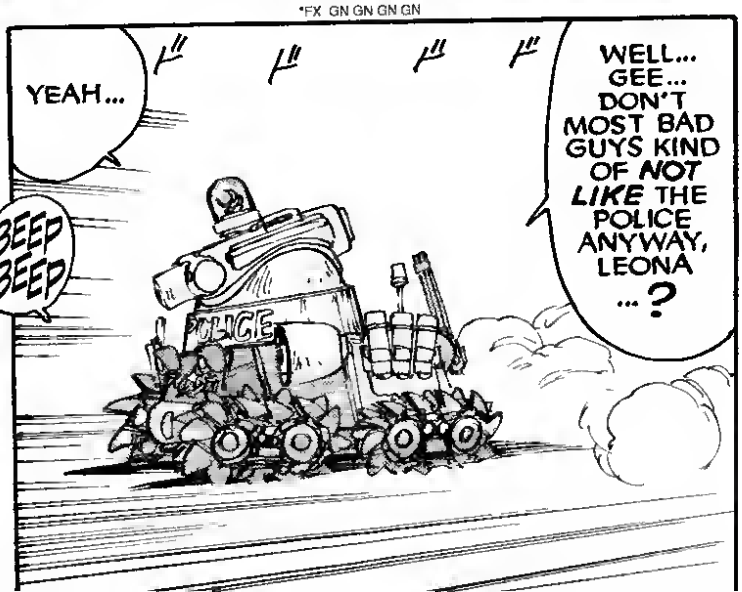
*FX GN GN GN GN GN GN

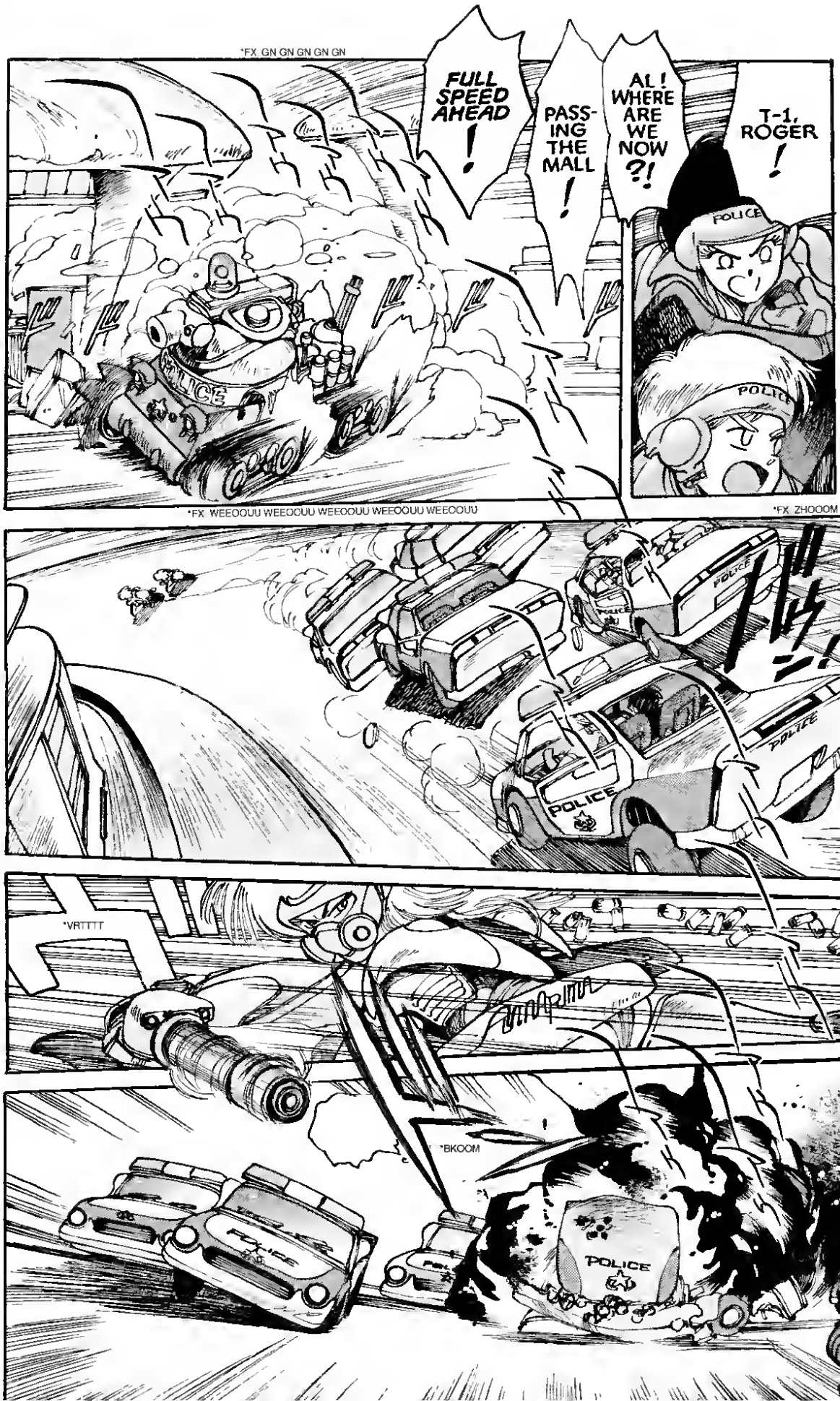




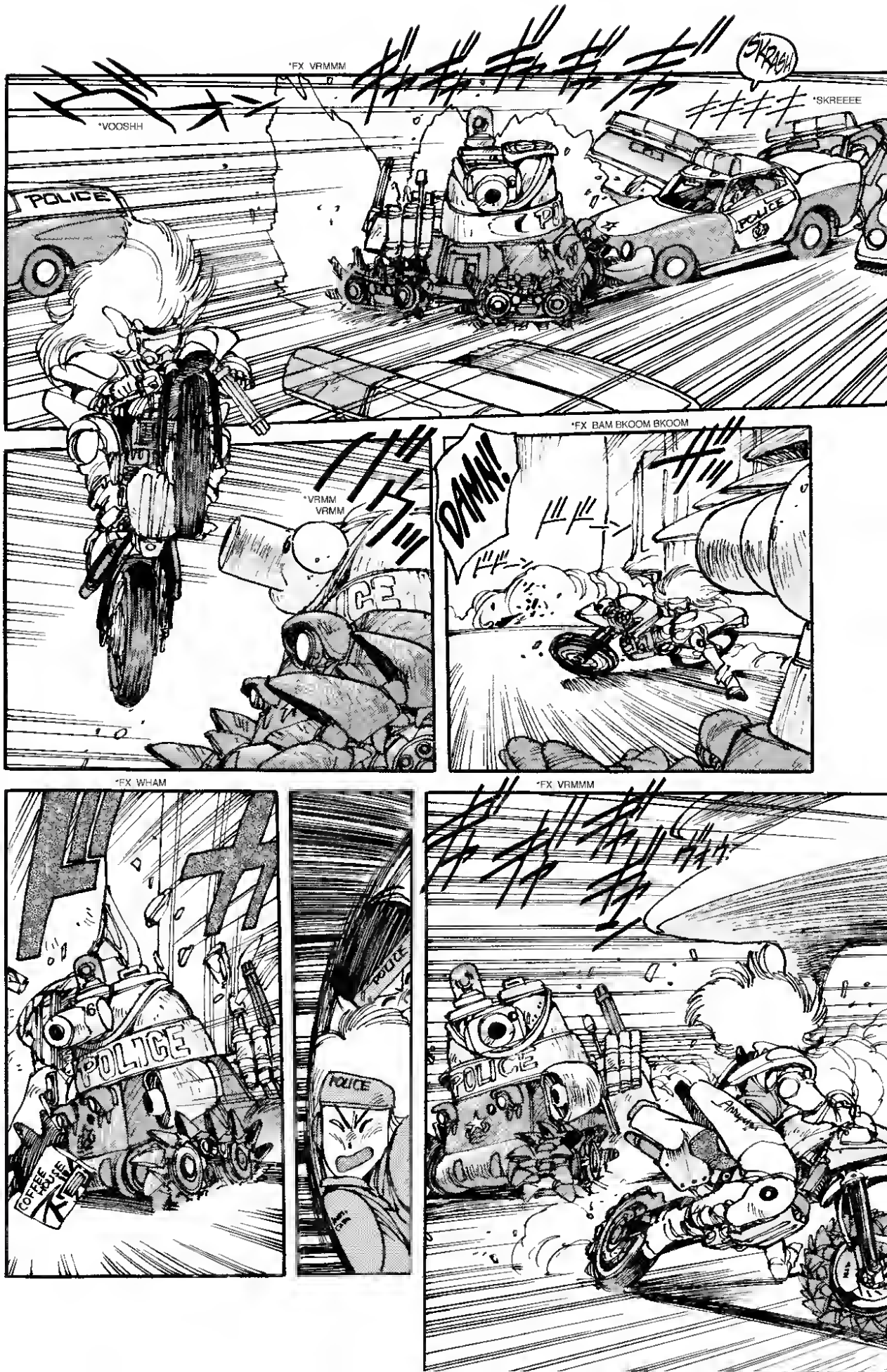


*FX GN GN GN GN

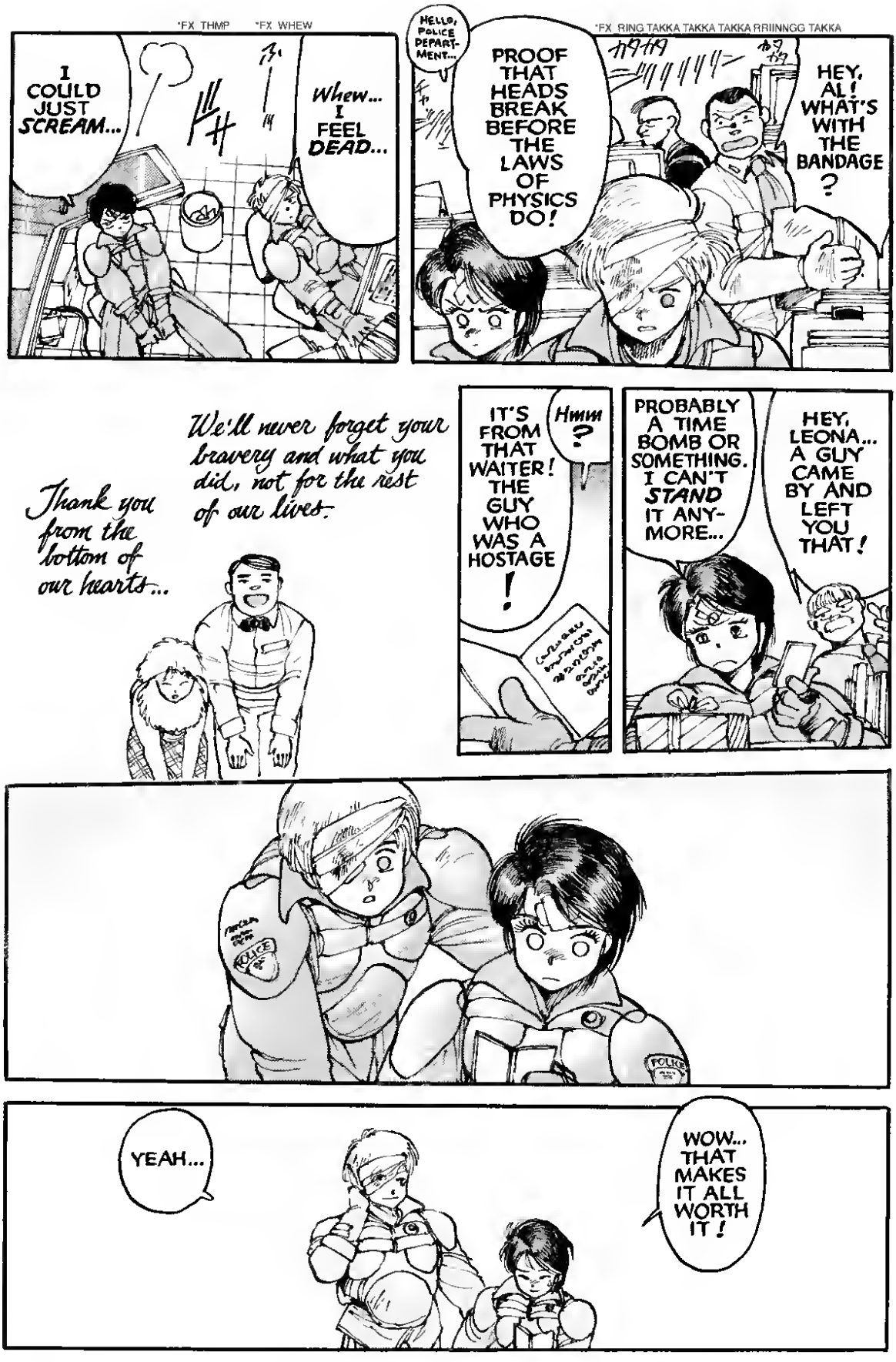


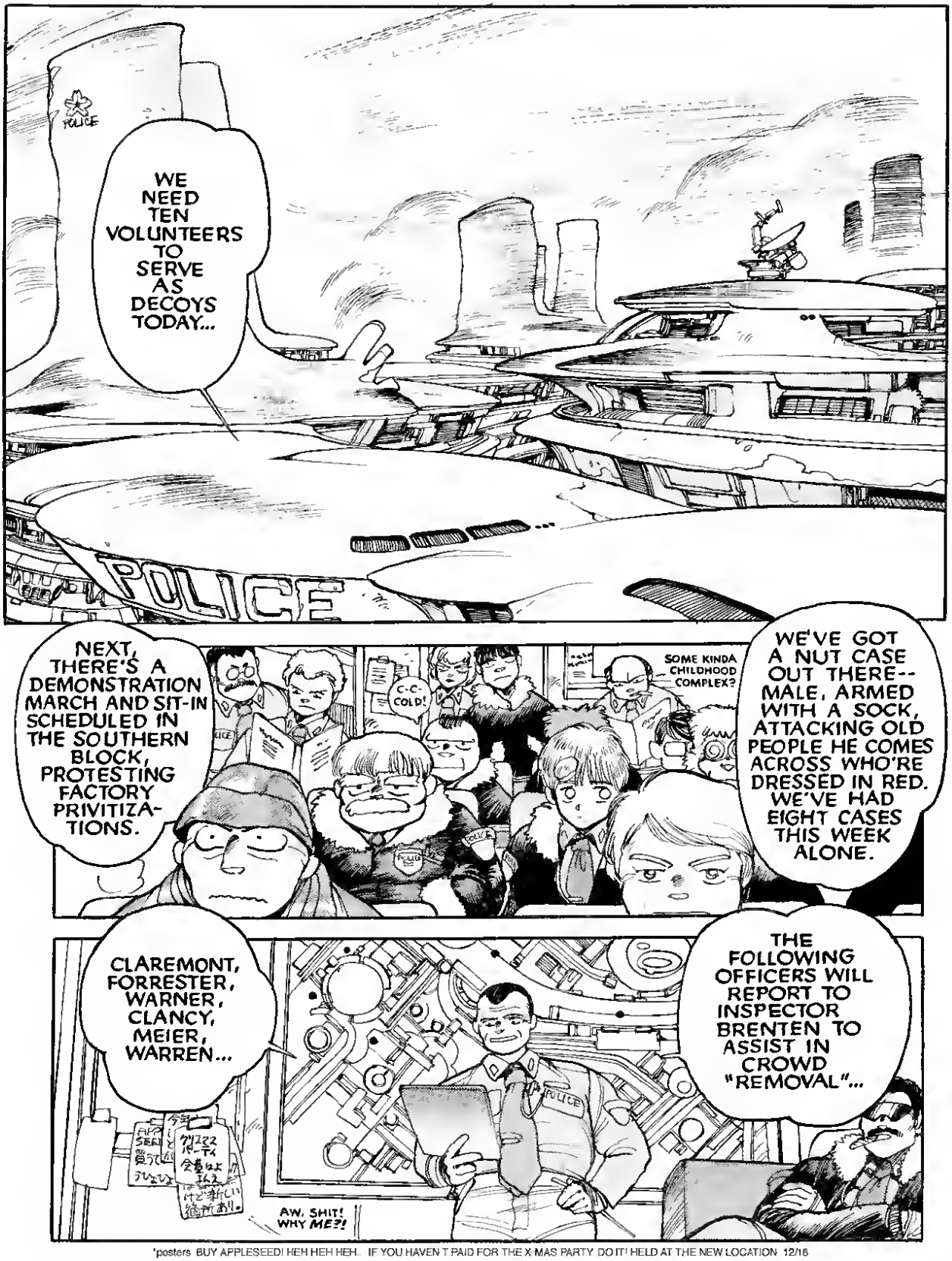

*FX. GN GN GN GN GN
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
PASS-ING THE MALL!
AL! WHERE ARE WE NOW?!
T-1, ROGER!
POLICE
*FX. WEEOOUU WEEOOUU WEEOOUU WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
*FX. ZHOOOM
POLICE
*VRTTTT
*BKOOM

YEAH!
POLICE
*VROOM
*ZANN
*VRMMM
!!
POLICE

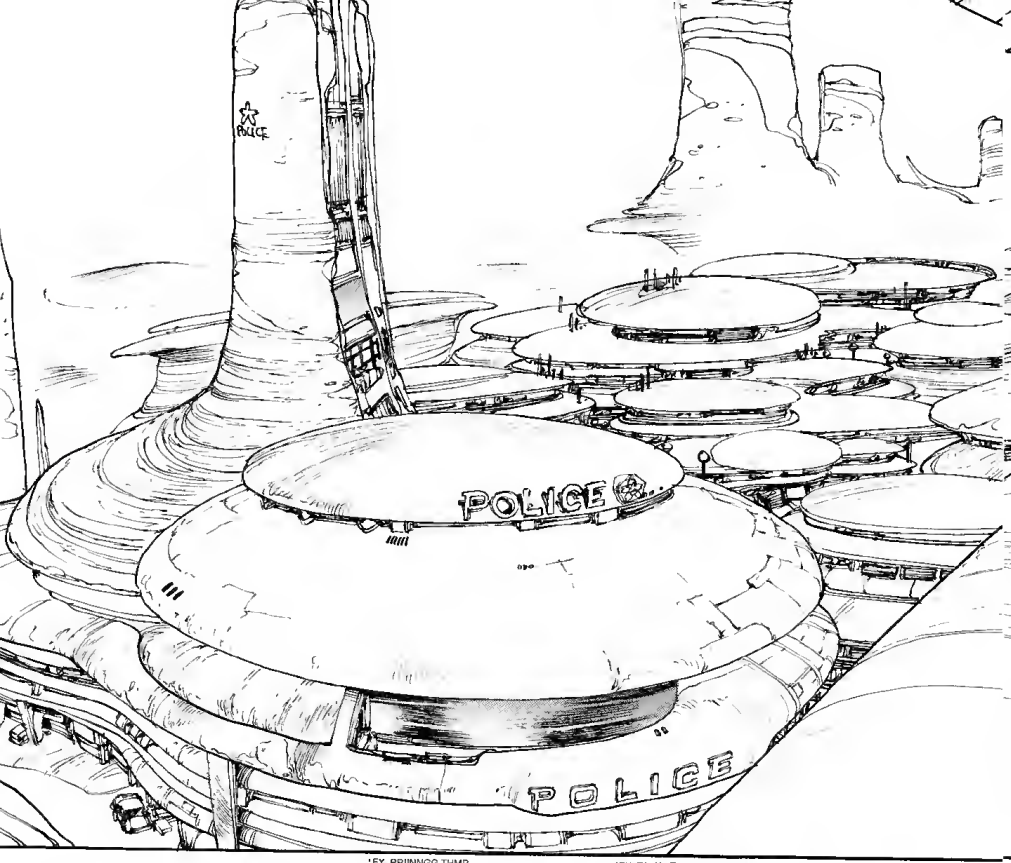

*VOOSHH
*FX VRMMM
*SKREEEE
SKRASH
POLICE
*VRMM VRMM
*FX BAM BKOOM BKOOM
DAMN!
*FX WHAM
POLICE
COFFEE HOUSE
*FX VRMMM

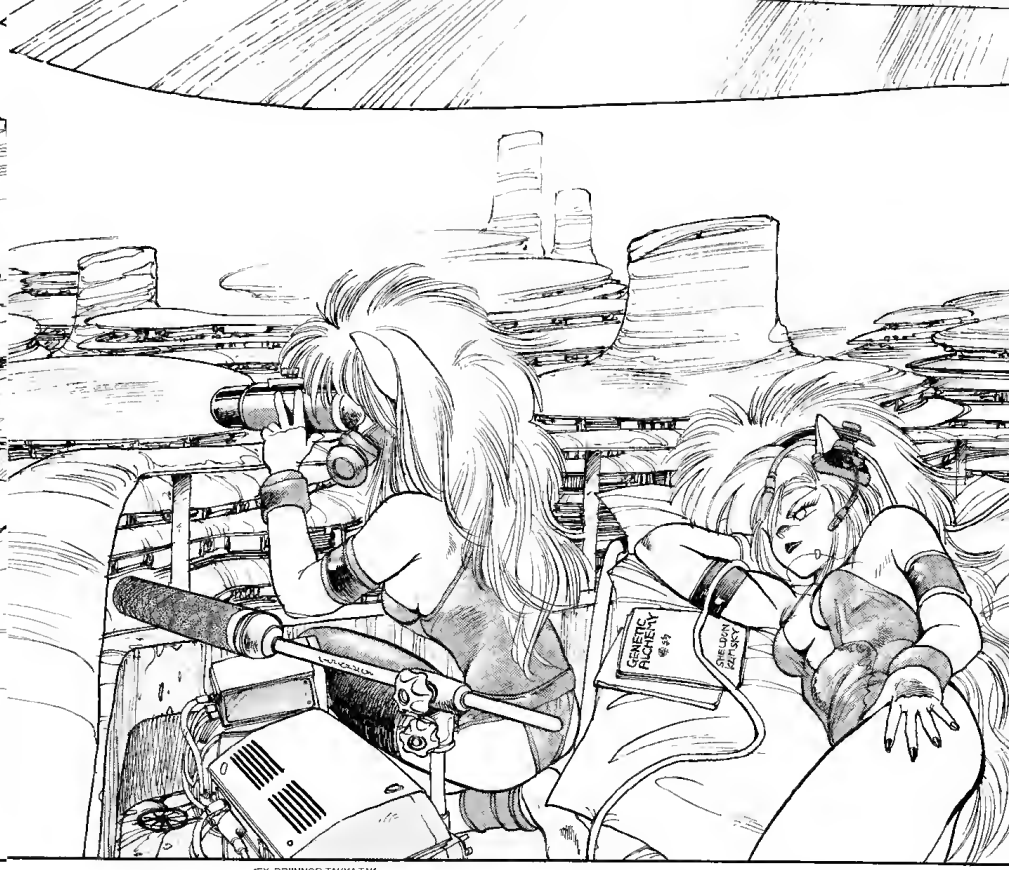
*FX KRAK KNCH
*FX WHDD SKSSSHH
IT'S THE DAMNED BUAKU GANG!
HNNG...!
AL! YOU OKAY?!
POLICE
*FX YAHAHAHAHAHAHA
Uhn...
*FX AHAHAHA
DAMN IT ALL!!
*MMMM
*BAM
POLICE
DAMN!
*HAH
*HAH
*RMMM
POLICE
SEE YA!
*VRUM
DAMN!
POLICE
*FX KLIK KLIK
*FX KLIK KLIK KLIK KLIK
YOU LOSE, TANK POLICE!
WE'RE ANNAPUMA AN' UNIPUMA, BUAKU'S BITCHIN' BABES!


*FX THMP
*FX WHEW
I COULD JUST SCREAM...
Whew... I FEEL DEAD...
HELLO, POLICE DEPARTMENT...
PROOF THAT HEADS BREAK BEFORE THE LAWS OF PHYSICS DO!
*FX RING TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG TAKKA
HEY, AL! WHAT'S WITH THE BANDAGE?
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts...
We'll never forget your bravery and what you did, not for the rest of our lives.
IT'S FROM THAT WAITER! THE GUY WHO WAS A HOSTAGE!
Hmm?
PROBABLY A TIME BOMB OR SOMETHING. I CAN'T STAND IT ANY-MORE...
HEY, LEONA... A GUY CAME BY AND LEFT YOU THAT!
POLICE
YEAH...
WOW... THAT MAKES IT ALL WORTH IT!


POLICE
WE NEED TEN VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS DECOYS TODAY...
POLICE
NEXT, THERE'S A DEMONSTRATION MARCH AND SIT-IN SCHEDULED IN THE SOUTHERN BLOCK, PROTESTING FACTORY PRIVITIZA-TIONS.
C-C-COLD!
SOME KINDA CHILDHOOD COMPLEX?
WE'VE GOT A NUT CASE OUT THERE-- MALE, ARMED WITH A SOCK, ATTACKING OLD PEOPLE HE COMES ACROSS WHO'RE DRESSED IN RED. WE'VE HAD EIGHT CASES THIS WEEK ALONE.
CLAREMONT, FORRESTER, WARNER, CLANCY, MEIER, WARREN...
AW. SHIT! WHY ME?!
THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WILL REPORT TO INSPECTOR BRENTEN TO ASSIST IN CROWD "REMOVAL"...
POLICE

'posters BUY APPLESEED! HEH HEH HEH... IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID FOR THE X-MAS PARTY DO IT! HELD AT THE NEW LOCATION 12/16

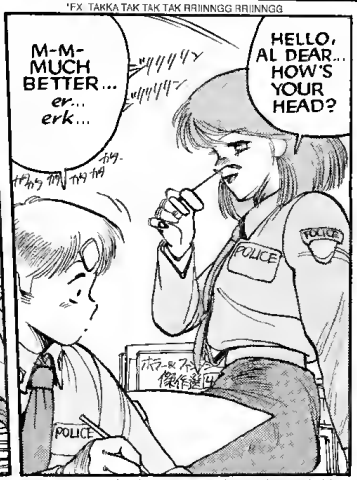




*FX: RRIINNGG THMP

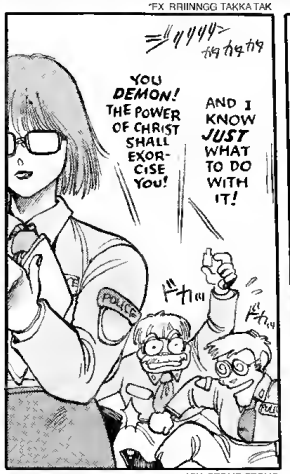
AL! TELL LEONA TO STOP BY MY OFFICE LATER! MISS BEACHUM! BRING ME A CUP OF COFFEE AND A CHEESE DANISH!
Eh heh.. THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO TELL LEONA--
POLICE
POLICE

*FX: TAKKA TAK TAK TAK RRIINNGG RRIINNGG

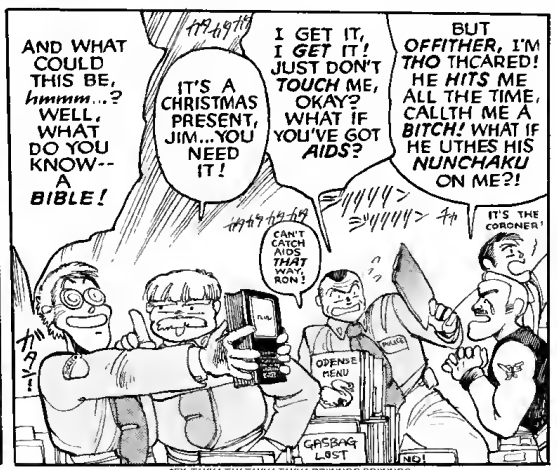


*book HORROR & FANTASY MASTERPIECE ANTHOLOGY 4

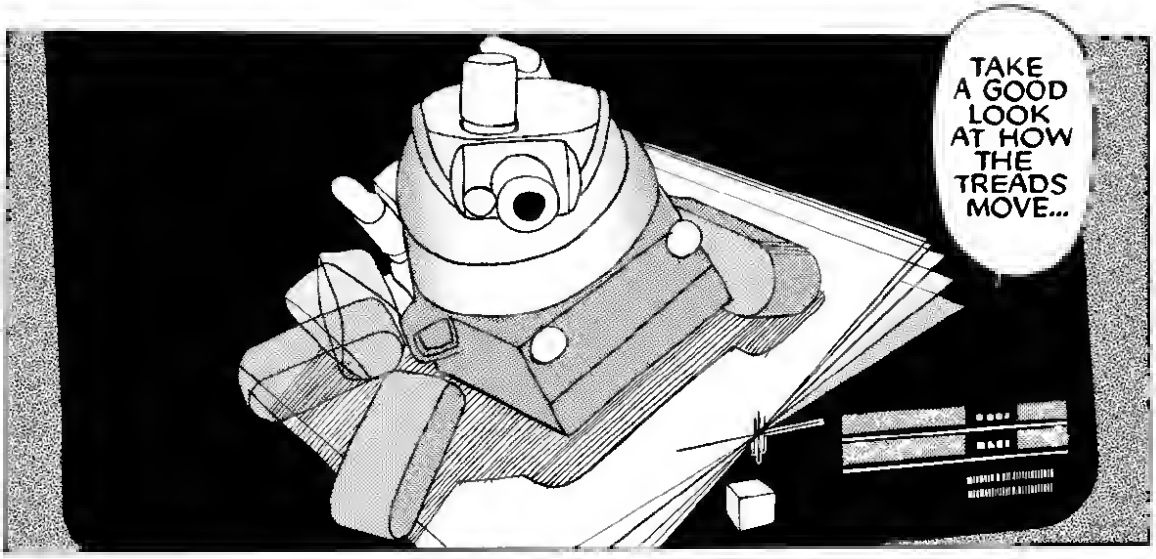
*FX: RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK



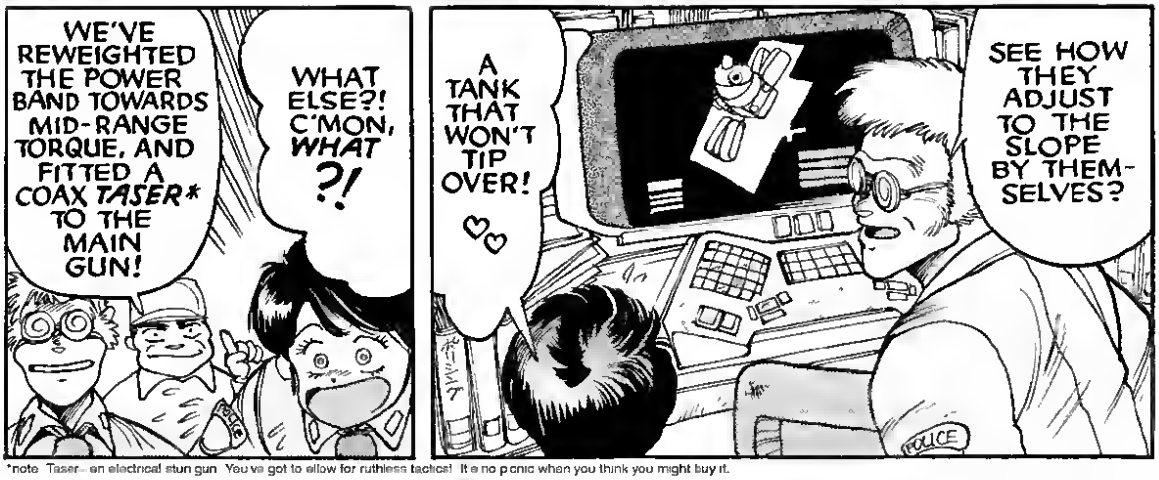
*FX: STOMP STOMP


AND WHAT COULD THIS BE, hmmm...? WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW-- A BIBLE!
IT'S A CHRISTMAS PRESENT, JIM... YOU NEED IT!
I GET IT, I GET IT! JUST DON'T TOUCH ME, OKAY? WHAT IF YOU'VE GOT AIDS?
CAN'T CATCH AIDS THAT WAY, RON!
BUT OFFITHER, I'M THO THCARED! HE HITS ME ALL THE TIME, CALLTH ME A BITCH! WHAT IF HE UTHES HIS NUNCHAKU ON ME?!
IT'S THE CORONER!
OPENSE MENU
GASBAG LOST
NO!

*FX: TAKKA TAK TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG RRIINNGG



*book POLICING


WE'VE REWEIGHTED THE POWER BAND TOWARDS MID-RANGE TORQUE, AND FITTED A COAX TASER* TO THE MAIN GUN!
WHAT ELSE?! C'MON, WHAT?!
A TANK THAT WON'T TIP OVER! ♡♡
SEE HOW THEY ADJUST TO THE SLOPE BY THEM-SELVES?
POLICE

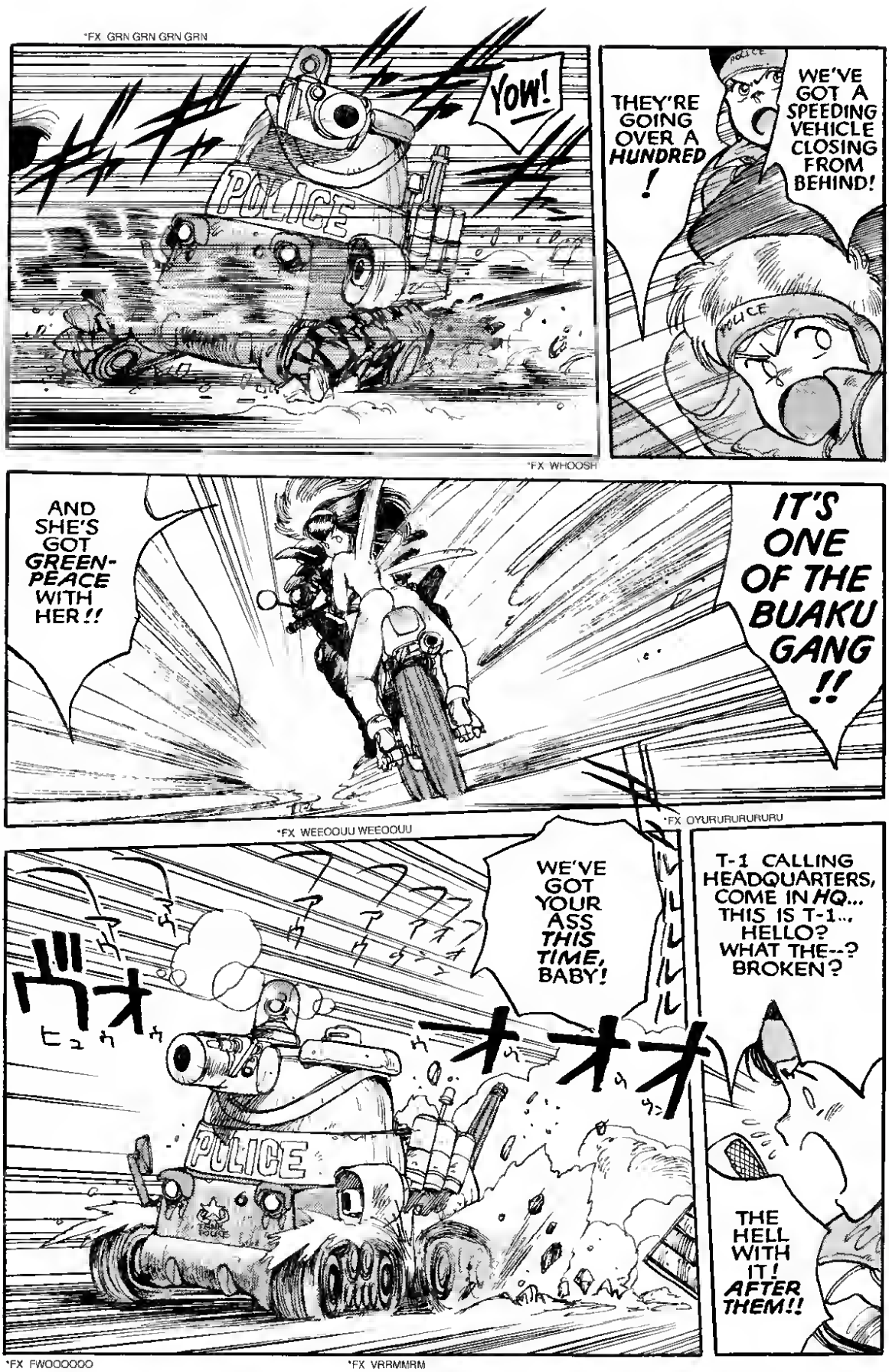
*note Taser... an electrical stun gun You've got to allow for ruthless tactics! It's no panic when you think you might buy it.

I JUST WENT AND SHARED SOME WINE WITH BONAPARTE... ACTUALLY, MY FAMILY IS ZEN BUDDHIST, BUT THANKS ANY-WAY!
CAN I OPEN IT NOW?
DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SEES IN HER
Uhmm... HERE'S YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT... YOU NEVER SHOWED UP AT THE PARTY YESTERDAY, SO...
POLICE
AL! AL, GET OVER HERE AND TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
*NYA HA HA HA
YOU CAN THROW HER THROUGH AN S-CURVE AT 60+ AND SHE STILL WOULDN'T ROLL!
POLICE

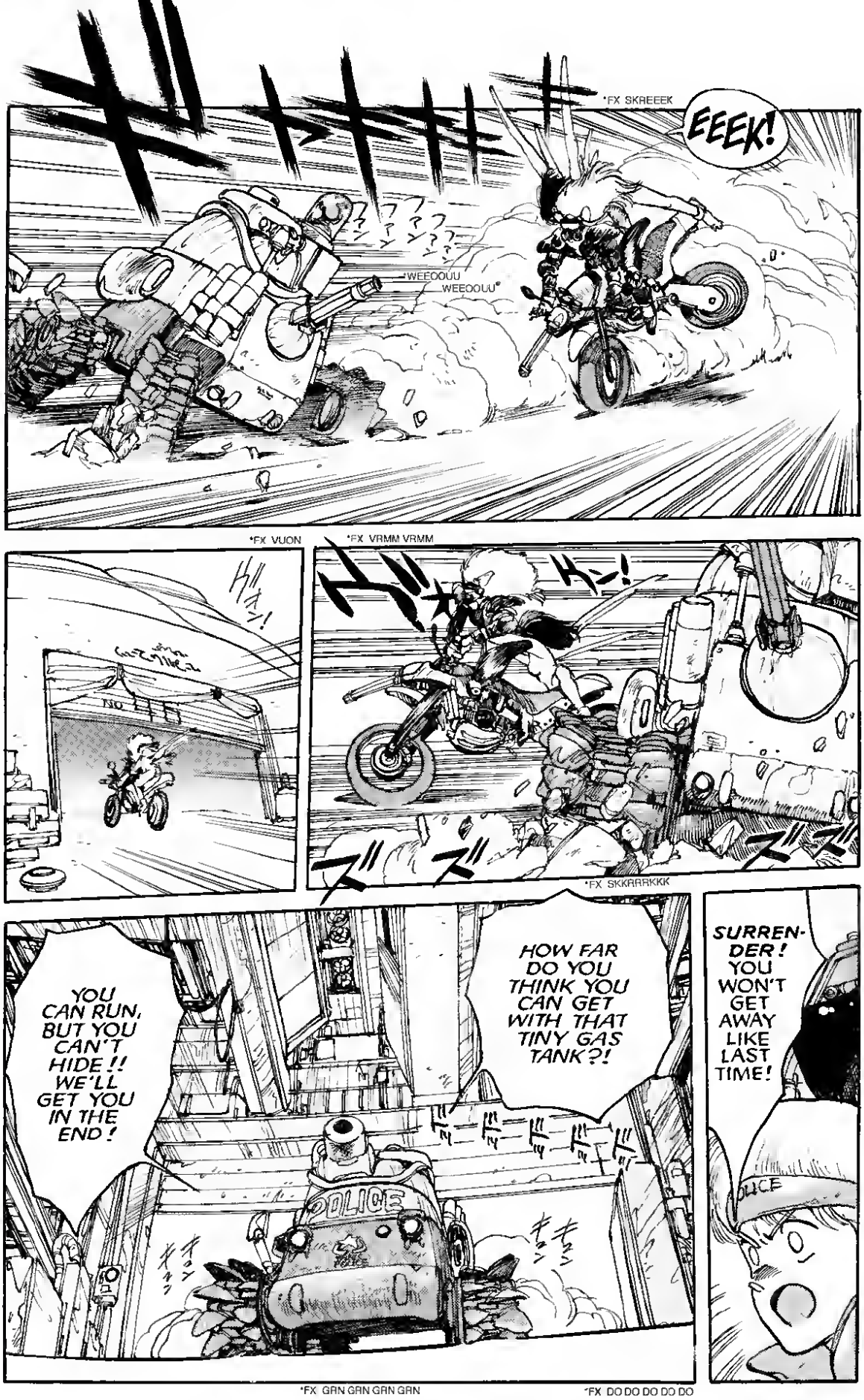
*FX HEH HEH
IN HIM...?
NOT LIKE IT'S A REWARD OR ANYTHING, BUT WANT TO GO FOR A DRIVE...?
I'M A SEALED, SELF-CONTAINED UNIT
REALLY?!?
THAT'S PRETTY SEVERE...
WELL, MY GRANDPA'S REALLY STRICT-- IF HE FOUND OUT I'D BEEN CELEBRATING A CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL HE'D WHACK ME ONE WITH A WOODEN SWORD!
OH. WOW! AN ECOLOGY SPHERE!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU JAPANESE WERE VERY STRICT ABOUT RELIGION ...
COME ON, LET'S GO!
SORRY, I'M SELECTIVELY HARD OF HEARING... HEE, HEE!
OH, YEAH... I ALMOST FORGOT. THE CHIEF WANTED TO SEE YOU...
*FX GRN HYUN GRN HYUN GRN HYUN GRN HYUN GRN
TIME TO MAKE OUR MOVE.
POLICE
*GISH

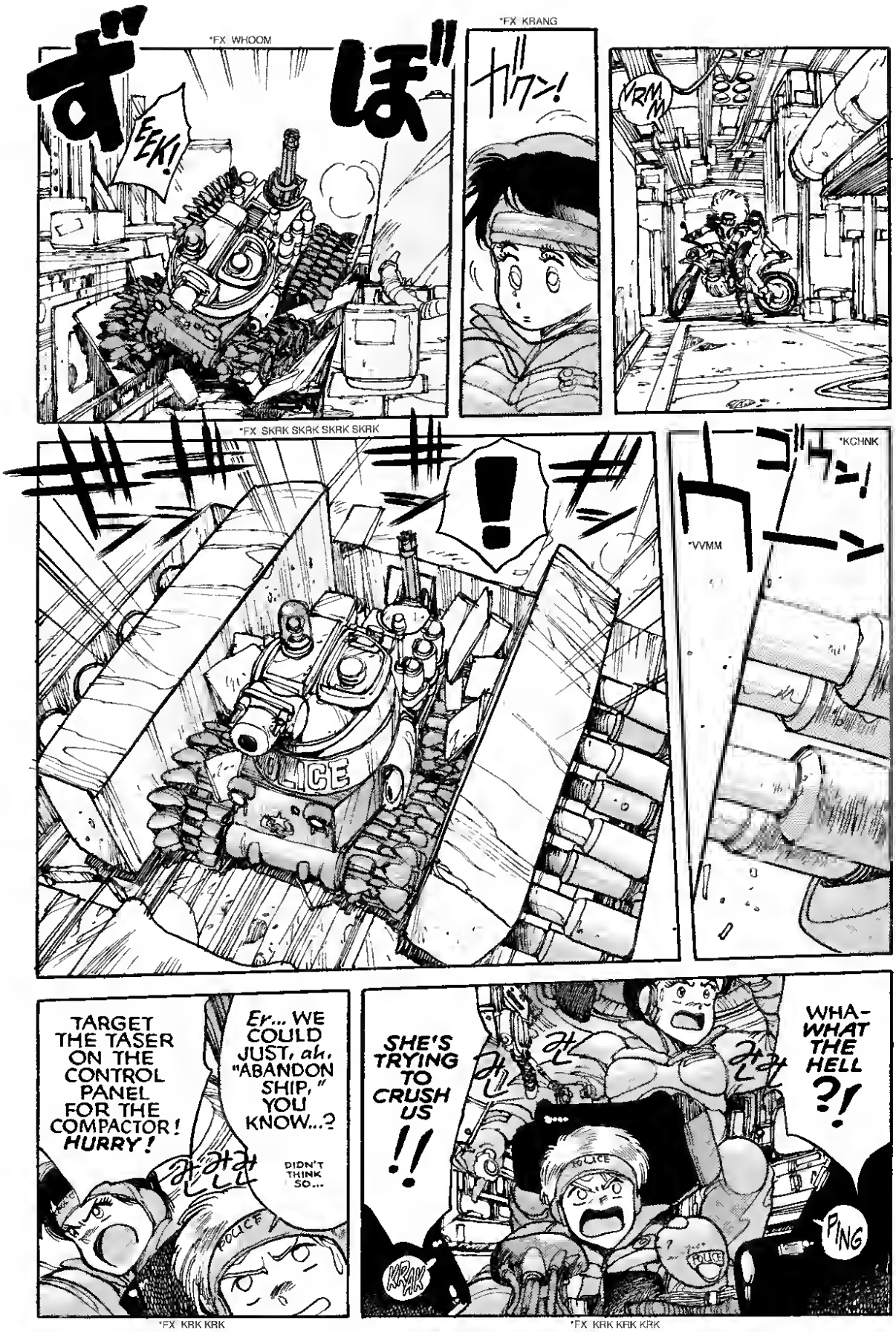
LOOK OUT!
POLICE
*FX SKREEK
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
*FX KLANG
?!
WATCH IT, YOU STUPID LITTLE BRAT!
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN GRN GRN
ALL THOSE NEO-YUPPIE PARENTS, Y'KNOW... JUST GRABBIN' MONEY AND STUFF, LETTIN' THEIR KIDS RUN AROUND OUTTA CONTROL. ME, I DON'T GIVE 'EM MONEY, JUST A SWAT... WORKS AS WELL. PUSH THE BUTTON, LOVE.
OKAY... ANY TIME YOU'RE READY. CAN YOU BELIEVE KIDS THESE DAYS, ANNA, DEAR?! THEY'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY!
ALL RIGHT, KID-- BITCHIN' JOB!
NOW, JUST REMEMBER IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUN OUT INTO THE STREET, OKAY, HONEY PIE?
BYE BYE!
TMP TMP TMP
*FX GRN GRN GRN

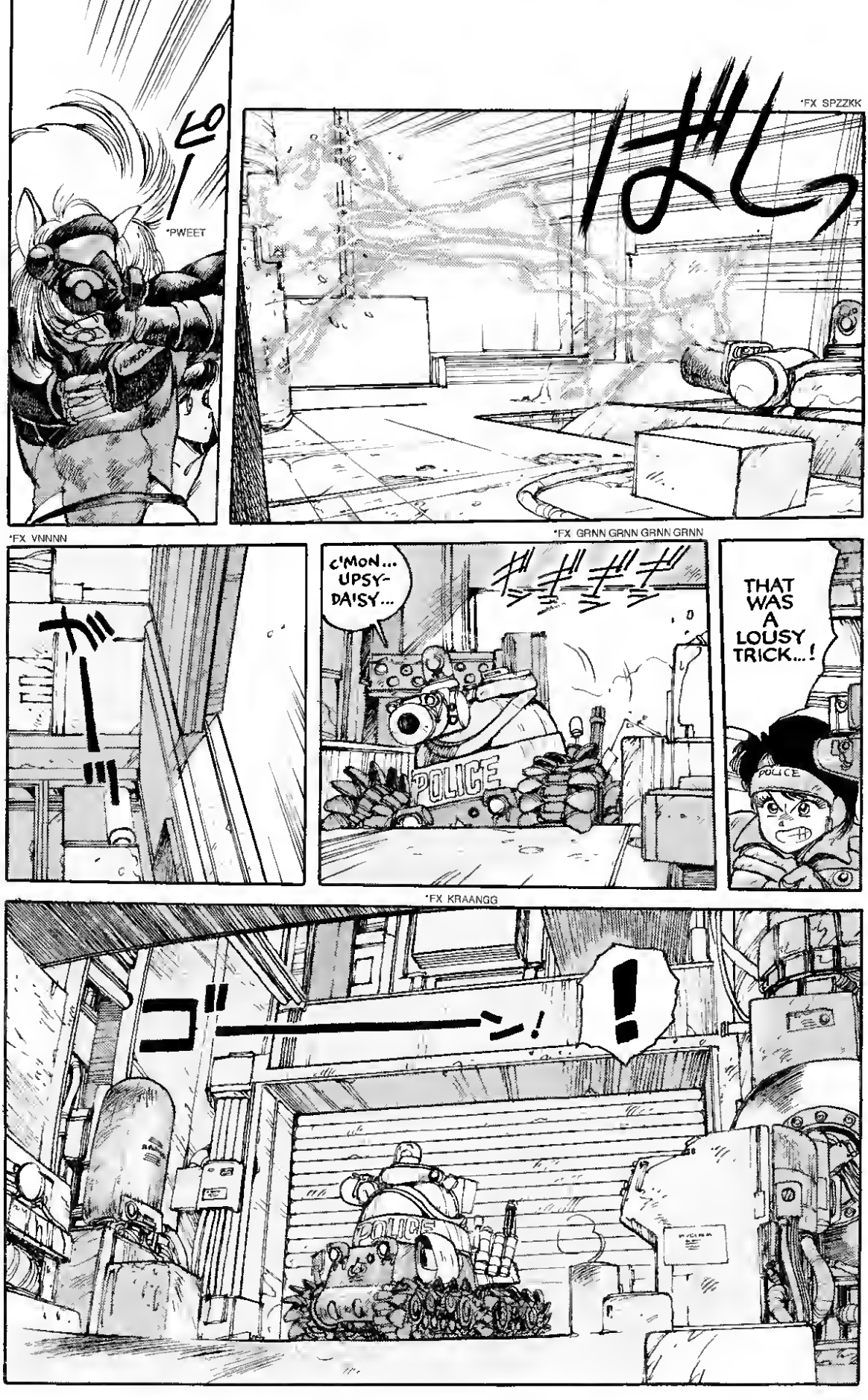
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN GRN GRN GRN
Mmmm... THEY SMELL LOVELY!
WELL, OKAY... LOTTA BAD KARMA IN THIS JOB...
...IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS AFGHANISTAN OR SOMETHING! I'LL HAVE THEM CHECKED OUT BACK AT THE STATION, THEN THEY'RE GOING TO GO ON MY DESK!
LEONA, ARE YOU SURE THOSE FLOWERS ARE SAFE...?
Oh, COME ON, AL...
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
*FX SKREEK
SQUEE
*FX RM RM RM RM RM RM
...SO FOLD THOSE WINGS, DEARIE!
HERE WE GO...
GEEZ... THOSE MORONS'LL NEVER GUESS THERE'S A MINI-JAMMER HIDDEN INSIDE THOSE FLOWERS! EVEN THOSE DUDES AT THE CSDA CAN'T GET 'EM THAT SMALL!
*FX VMM VRM VRMMMM


*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
YOW!
POLICE
THEY'RE GOING OVER A HUNDRED!
WE'VE GOT A SPEEDING VEHICLE CLOSING FROM BEHIND!
POLICE
*FX WHOOSH
AND SHE'S GOT GREEN-PEACE WITH HER!!
IT'S ONE OF THE BUAKU GANG!!
*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
*FX OYURURURURURU
WE'VE GOT YOUR ASS THIS TIME, BABY!
T-1 CALLING HEADQUARTERS, COME IN HQ... THIS IS T-1... HELLO? WHAT THE--? BROKEN?
POLICE
THE HELL WITH IT! AFTER THEM!!
*FX FWOOOOOO
*FX VRRMMRM

*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
*FX VRMMM
POLICE
*GRN GRN GRN GRN
POLICE
THE ONE BRENTEN WENT TO CLEAR OUT?!
POLICE
Oh, GREAT!! SHE'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THAT DEMONSTRA-TION!
*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
POLICE
Oh, BOGUS! HOW CAN THEY CORNER SO FAST?!
*FX VRMMMM
*FX GRRN GRRN GRRN
POLICE
!
*FX WEEOOUU WEEOOUU
*FX DODODODODODO

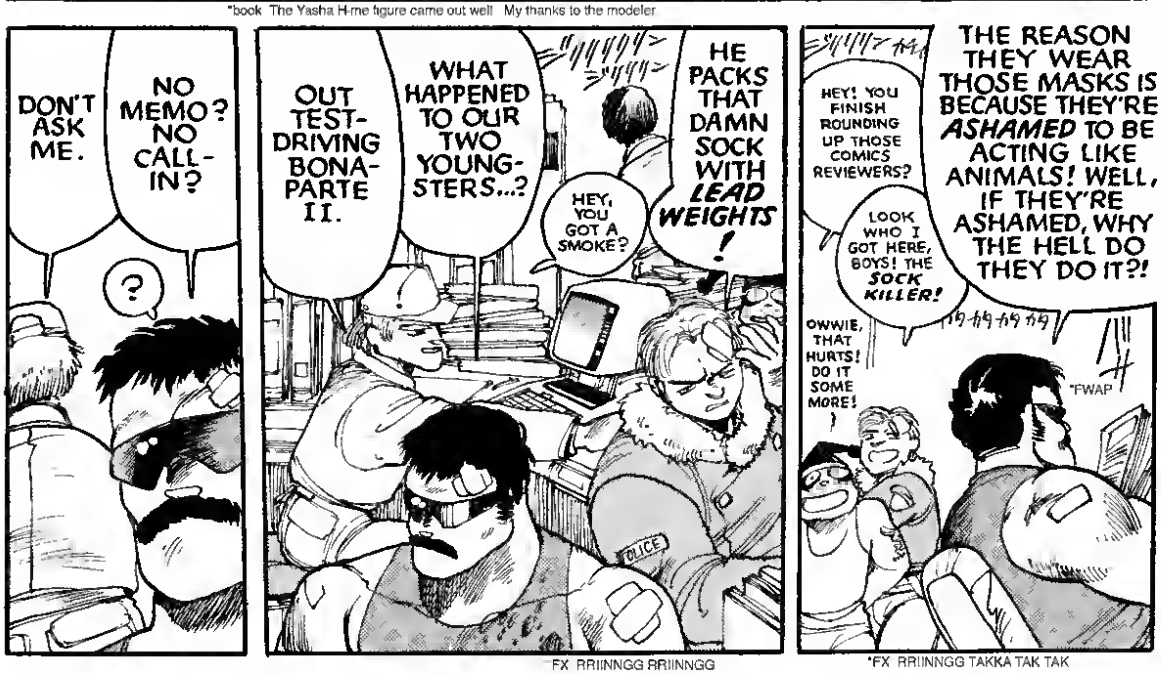

*FX SKREEEK
EEEK!
*WEEOOUU
WEEOOUU*
*FX VUON
*FX VRMM VRMM
*FX SKKRRRKKK
HOW FAR DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET WITH THAT TINY GAS TANK?!
YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE!! WE'LL GET YOU IN THE END!
SURRENDER! YOU WON'T GET AWAY LIKE LAST TIME!
POLICE
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
*FX DO DO DO DO DO

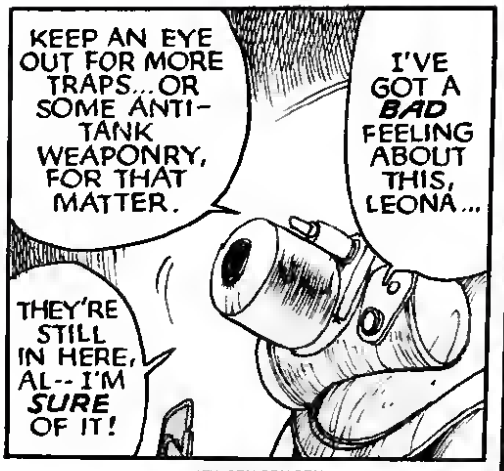

ずぼ
*FX WHOOM
EEK!
*FX KRANG
ガラン!
VRMM
*FX SKRK SKRK SKRK SKRK
!
POLICE
*KCHNK
ゴゴゴーン
*VVMM
TARGET THE TASER ON THE CONTROL PANEL FOR THE COMPACTOR! HURRY!
Er... WE COULD JUST, ah, "ABANDON SHIP," YOU KNOW...?
DIDN'T THINK SO...
POLICE
*FX KRK KRK
SHE'S TRYING TO CRUSH US!!
WHA- WHAT THE HELL?!
POLICE
KRAK
PING
*FX KRK KRK KRK

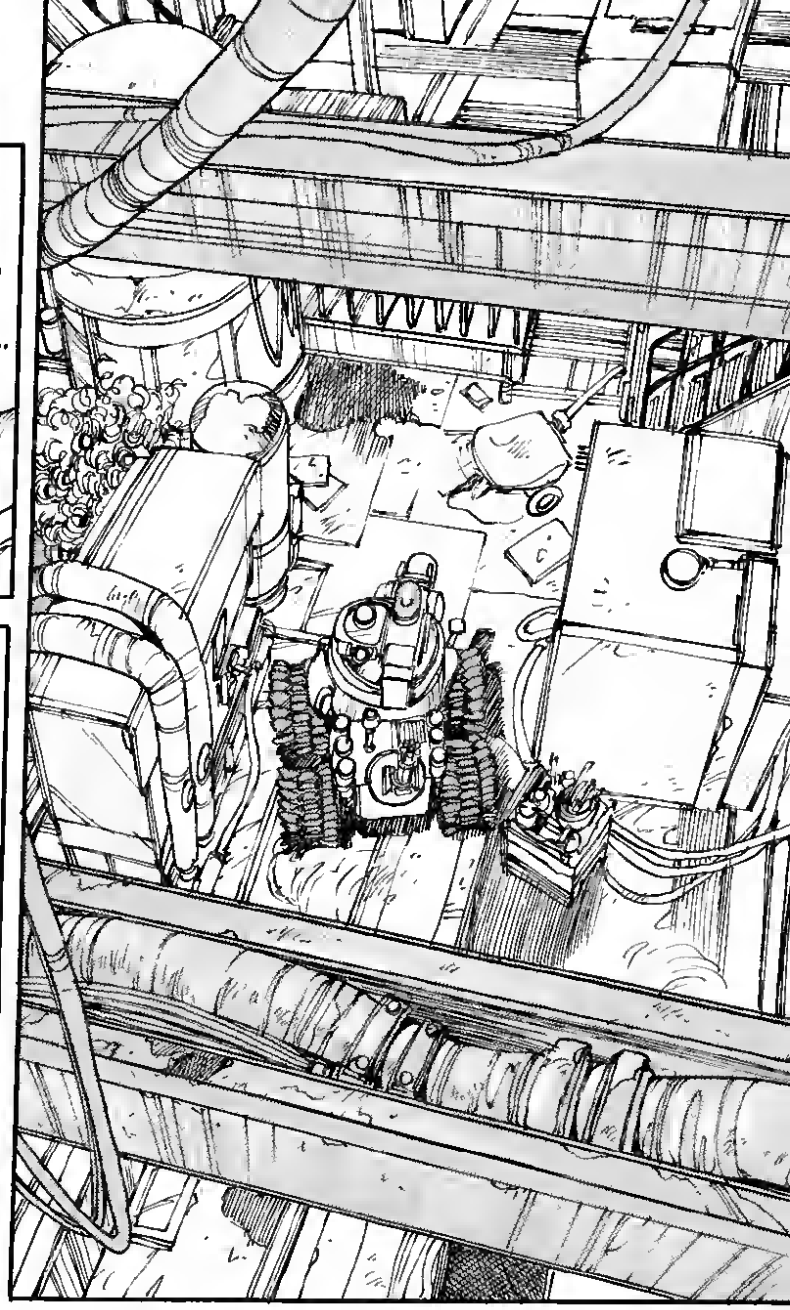

ピー
*PWEET
ばしっ
*FX SPZZKK
*FX VNNNN
*FX GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN
C'MON... UPSY-DAISY...
POLICE
THAT WAS A LOUSY TRICK...!
POLICE
*FX KRAANGG
ゴーン!
!
POLICE

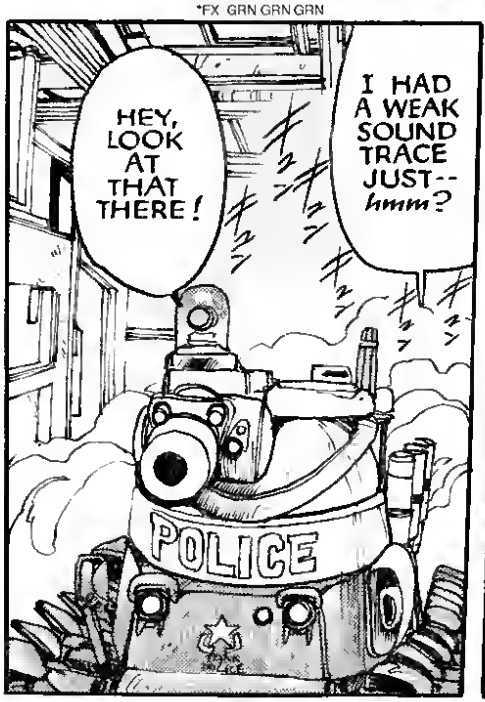
"PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION" MY ASS! THEY DRAGGED IN BOXES OF ROCKS, CLUBS--YOU NAME IT! THAT BUNCHA THUGS PLANNED TO FIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING!
"LOVE YOUR FELLOW MAN," THEY SAY! HAH!
MAN, YOU GUYS REALLY GOT HAMMERED!
DID YOU HEAR SGT. DRAGSETH GOT MARRIED? WONDERFUL!
I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE GUYS'VE GOT A SINGLE SANE THOUGHT IN THEIR GOD-DAMN HEADS!
POLICE

*book The Yasha H-me figure came out well My thanks to the modeler

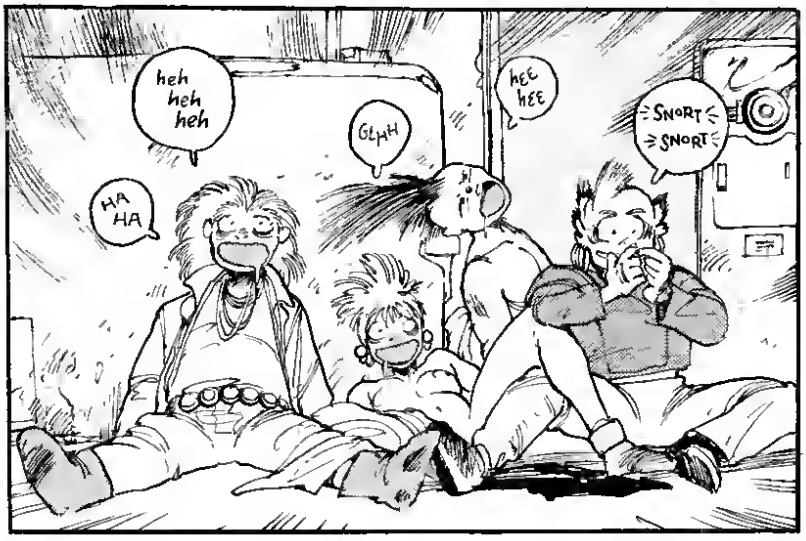

DON'T ASK ME.
NO MEMO? NO CALL-IN?
?
OUT TEST-DRIVING BONA-PARTE II.
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR TWO YOUNG-STERS...?
HEY, YOU GOT A SMOKE?
HE PACKS THAT DAMN SOCK WITH LEAD WEIGHTS!
POLICE
*FX RRIINNGG RRIINNGG
HEY! YOU FINISH ROUNDING UP THOSE COMICS REVIEWERS?
LOOK WHO I GOT HERE, BOYS! THE SOCK KILLER!
THE REASON THEY WEAR THOSE MASKS IS BECAUSE THEY'RE ASHAMED TO BE ACTING LIKE ANIMALS! WELL, IF THEY'RE ASHAMED, WHY THE HELL DO THEY DO IT?!
OWWIE, THAT HURTS! DO IT SOME MORE!
*FWAP
*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAK


KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE TRAPS...OR SOME ANTI-TANK WEAPONRY, FOR THAT MATTER.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS, LEONA...
THEY'RE STILL IN HERE, AL-- I'M SURE OF IT!




*FX GRN GRN GRN
HEY, LOOK AT THAT THERE!
I HAD A WEAK SOUND TRACE JUST-- hmm?
POLICE

I'LL HIT THEM WITH A GLUE-SHELL... THAT'LL KEEP THEM THERE UNTIL WE CAN COME BACK.
COKE-HEADS...? THIS ANOTHER TRAP, OR JUST A COINCI-DENCE?
BEEP
THEY'RE FRIED!


heh heh heh
HA HA
GLAH
hee hee
SNORT SNORT

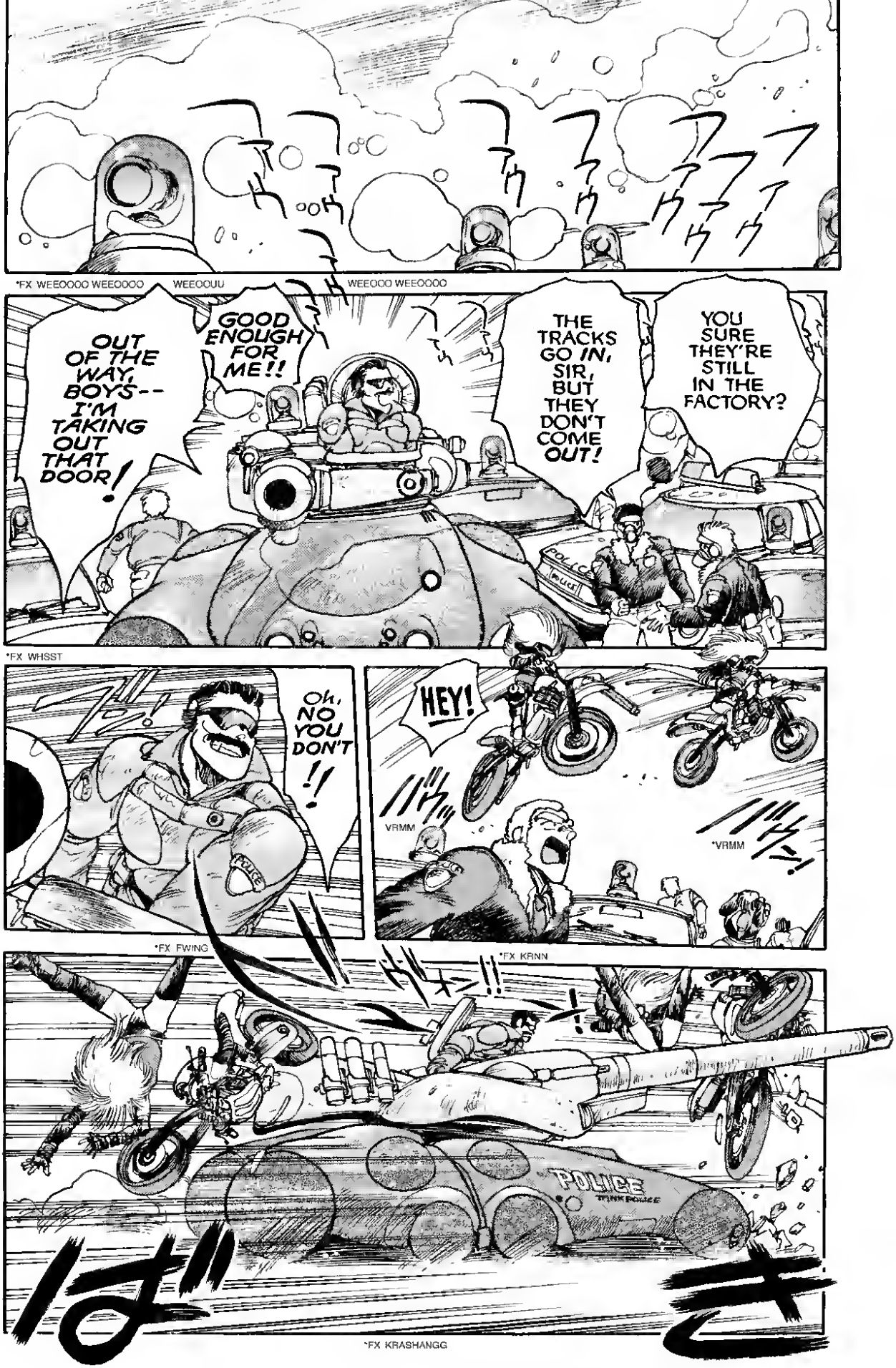
*FX GRN GRN GRN
HEE HEE
AAA
GGG...
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THAT'S ODD... MUST HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THE COMPACTOR.
LICE
HUH?!
GREAT! MAKE SURE THEY CAN'T GET AROUND US IF THEY COME DOWN THIS HALL!
LEONA! I'VE GOT A FIX ON THEM! I BACK-TRACKED IT FROM THE ECHO OF THE MOTOR-CYCLE EXHAUST...
POLICE
AL... DOES THE ENGINE SOUND OKAY TO YOU? RUN SOME DIAGNOSTICS AND SHUNT THEM TO MY MONITOR, WILL YOU?
POLICE

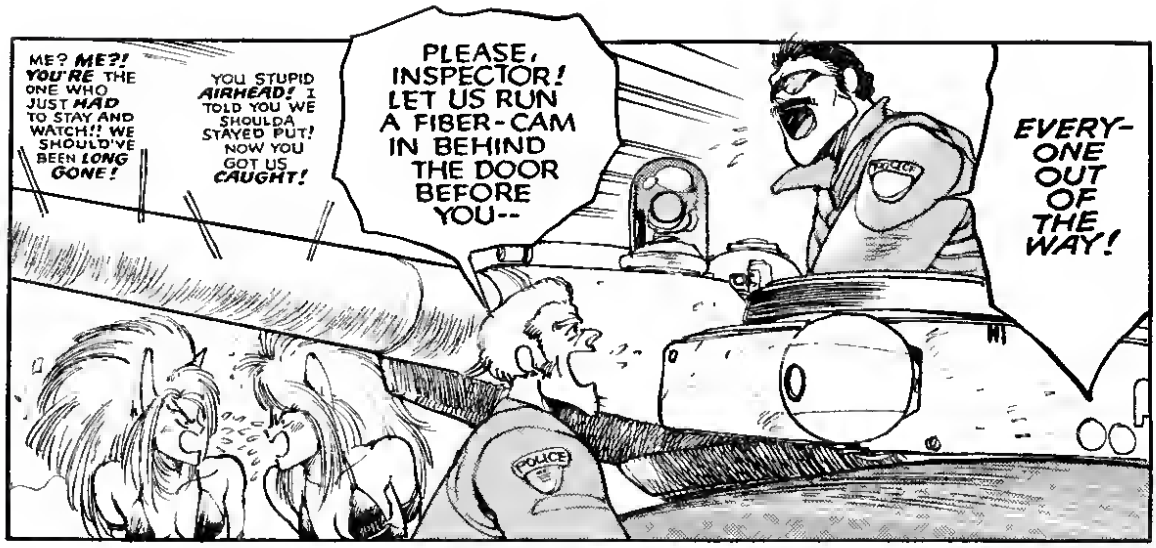
*FX GRN GRN GRN GRN GRNNNNNN
Huh?
AL!! THROTTLE BACK THE ENGINE! NOW!!
*FX ILSHHHH
THE FILTER BRUSH IS GOING FULL BLAST, BUT THE ENGINE'S STILL NOT GETTING ANY AIR!
THE BACTERIAL DENSITY OUTSIDE IS SHOOTING UP LIKE CRAZY!
WE'RE ABOUT TO OVER-HEAT-- THE AIR FILTER'S TOTALLY CLOGGED!
WHAT'S UP?!
*FX GNNN
KEEP THE ENGINE REVS LOW!
GOT YOU!
REVERSE!
I'M NOT PICKING UP THEIR BREATHING ANYMORE, LEONA!
WE HAVE TO GO BACK AND HELP THOSE COKE-HEADS!

*FX GNN GNN GNN GNN
.....
THIS ONE DIDN'T MAKE IT...
UGH..
POLICE
*FX GNN GNN GNN GNN
WELL, THEY COULDN'T EXACTLY GET UP AND WALK OUT OF HERE, COULD THEY?!
MAYBE... IF I'D GOTTEN HERE A LITTLE QUICKER...
POLICE
*FX KYUKYUKYUKYU KYUKYUKYU! KYUKYU
DAMN IT!!
DAMN IIIT!!!
THE ENGINE SEIZED!
POLICE
Oh, NO!!
*FX GNN PSHHH
*FX GNN GNN
I... I'M SORRY, LEONA--I MEAN, EVEN BEFORE YOU HIT THEM WITH THE GLUE-SHELL, THEY WERE TOO STONED TO WALK. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
POLICE

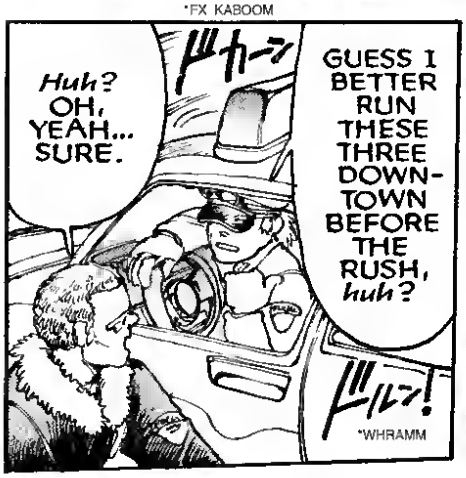
WE CAN'T... WE'LL HAVE TO PUT OXYGEN PACKS ON OUR THREE SURVIVORS HERE AND TRY TO GET OUT THROUGH A SKYLIGHT OR SOMETHING.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO BREAK DOWN THAT DOOR WITHOUT OUR MAIN GUN?
WE CAN'T RESTART THE ENGINE UNTIL IT COOLS DOWN, AND THERE'S NO WAY OUR OXYGEN TANKS WILL LAST THAT LONG...
SHKK
SHE WON'T.
DAMN IT... IF THAT HAIRBALL BUAKU GIRL FINDS US, WE'LL BE SITTING DUCKS!
DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE, DO WE?
POLICE
HEY, GET A LOAD OF THIS!
hff
hff
Oh, GREAT!!

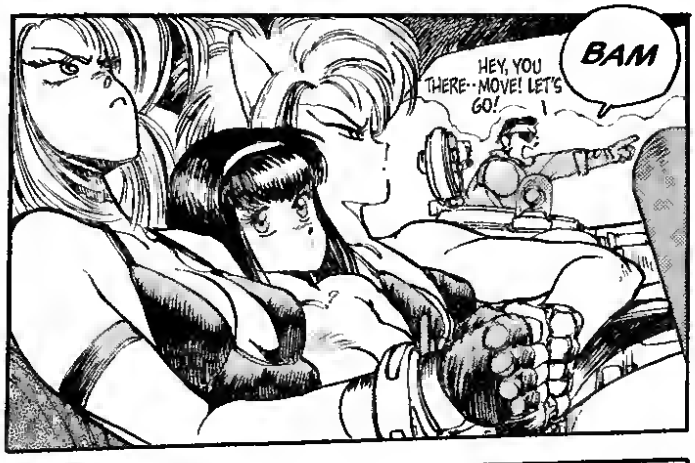
...HAVING A GOOD LAUGH AT HOW WE IDIOTS WALKED RIGHT INTO THEIR TRAP!
THE REAL ONES MUST BE OUT IN CLEAN AIR SOME-WHERE...
OBVIOUSLY, SOME-WHERE OUR SENSOR ARRAY WAS BLIND...
WHEN DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE SWAPPED PLACES WITH THEM?
POLICE
*FX SLUMP
?
whew
hnhhAA!
hnhhAA!
AL... ALMOS' TH'RE...
WH...WHAT'S WI' THESE OXYGEN TANKS... SH' BE MORE INNIM...
AN' WH' ABOUT THOSE OTH'R GUYS...
.....

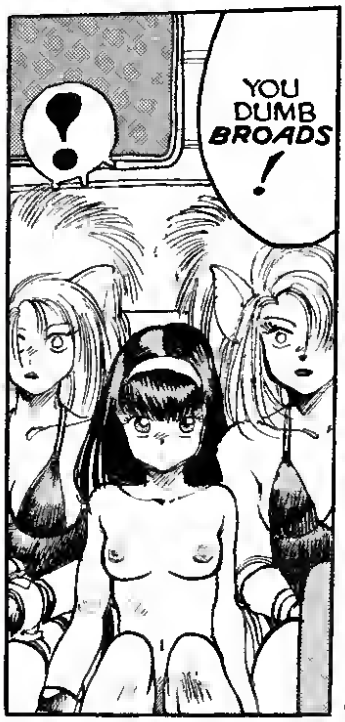

*FX WEEOOOO WEEOOOO
WEEOOUU
WEEOOO WEEOOOO
OUT OF THE WAY, BOYS-- I'M TAKING OUT THAT DOOR!
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!!
THE TRACKS GO IN, SIR, BUT THEY DON'T COME OUT!
YOU SURE THEY'RE STILL IN THE FACTORY?
POLICE
*FX WHSST
Oh, NO YOU DON'T !!
HEY!
VRMM
*VRMM
*FX FWING
*FX KRNN
POLICE
*FX KRASHANGG

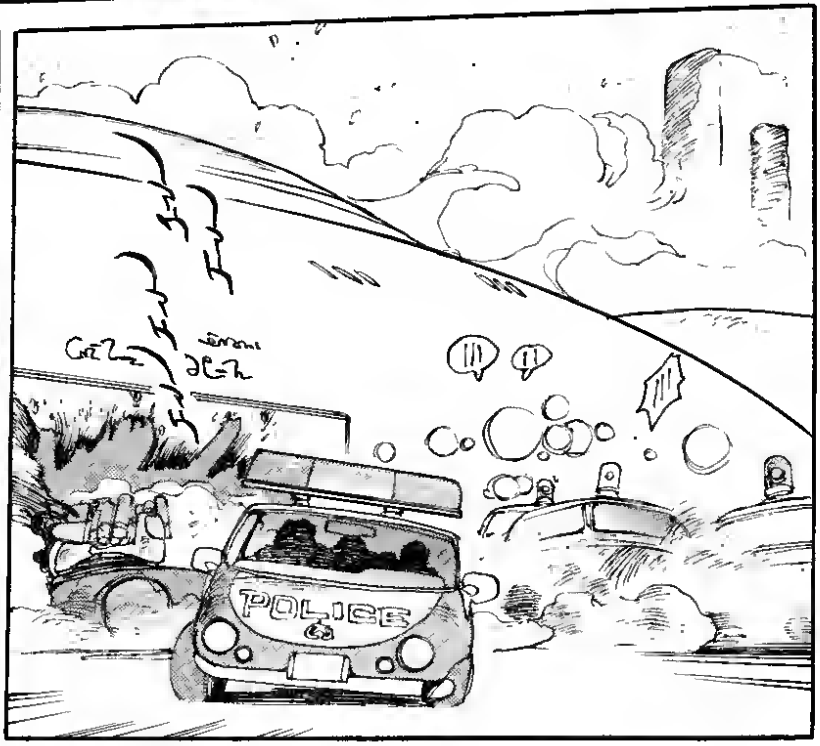

ME? ME?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUST HAD TO STAY AND WATCH!! WE SHOULD'VE BEEN LONG GONE!
YOU STUPID AIRHEAD! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDA STAYED PUT! NOW YOU GOT US CAUGHT!
PLEASE, INSPECTOR! LET US RUN A FIBER-CAM IN BEHIND THE DOOR BEFORE YOU--
EVERY-ONE OUT OF THE WAY!
POLICE

*FX KABOOM

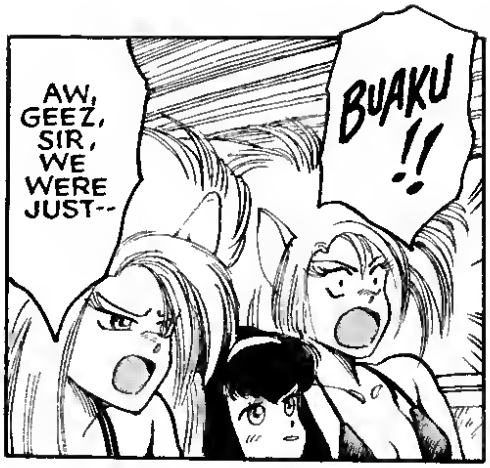


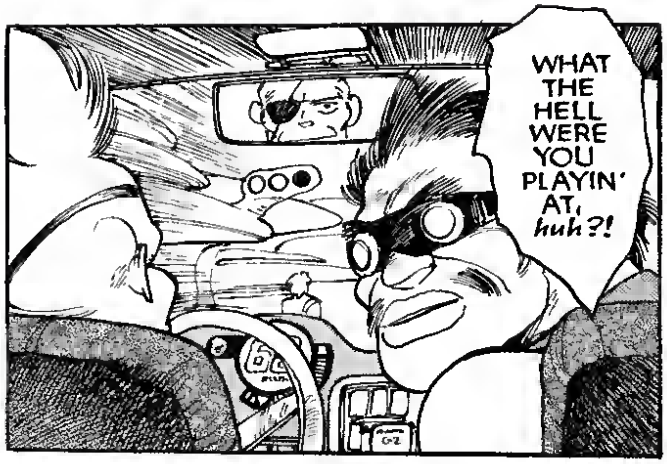


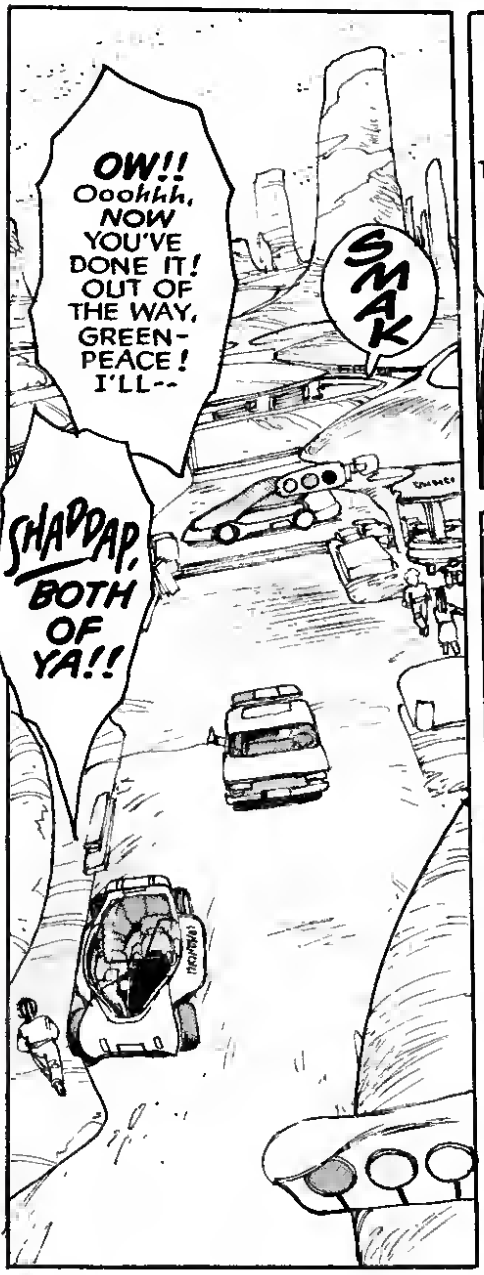


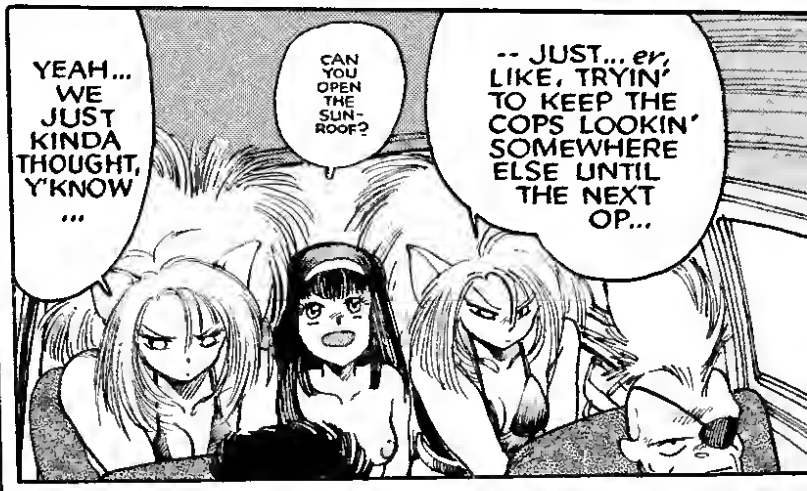


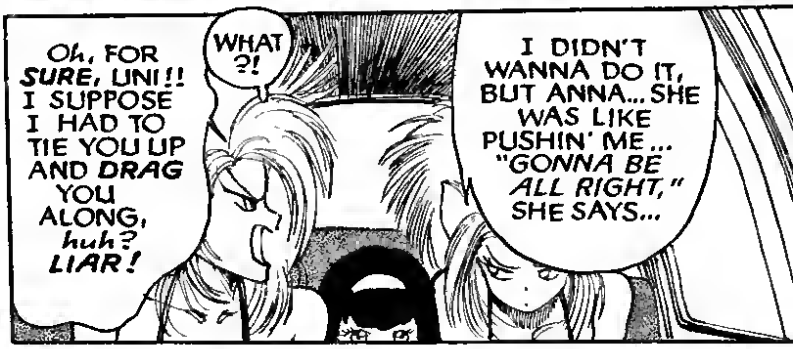
*FX WEEOOOO WEOOOO WEEOOO

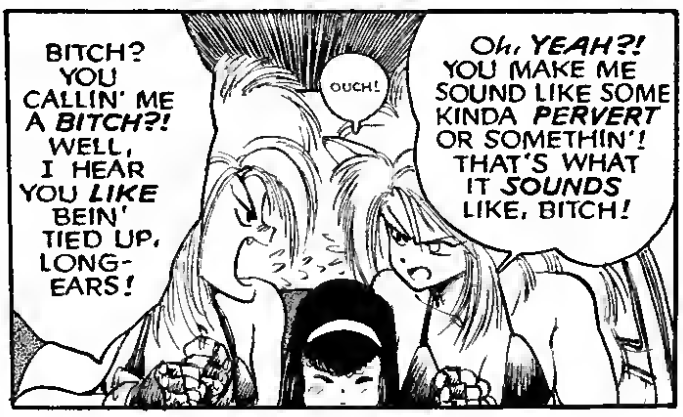

AW, GEEZ, SIR, WE WERE JUST--
BUAKU !!

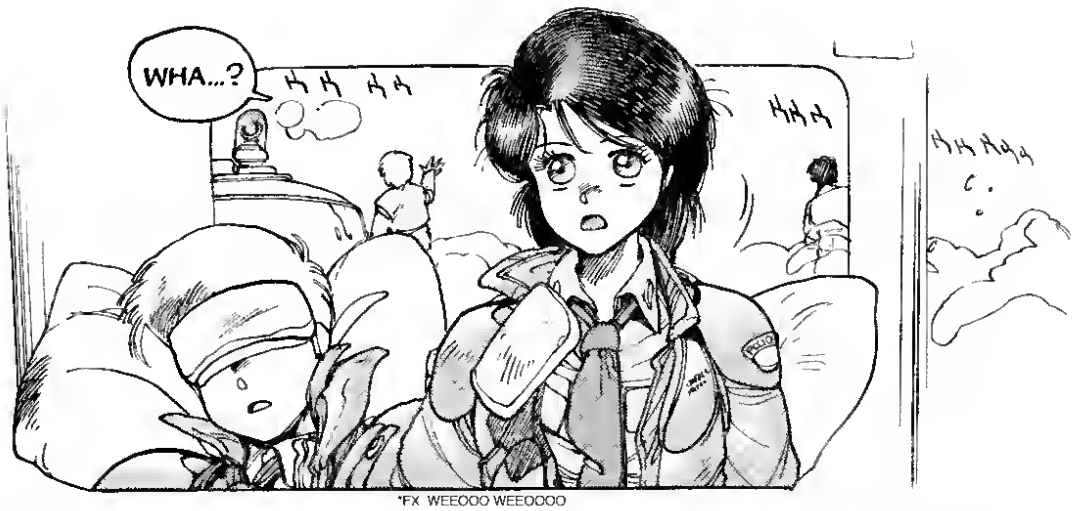

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU PLAYIN' AT, huh?!


OW!! Ooohhh, NOW YOU'VE DONE IT! OUT OF THE WAY, GREEN-PEACE! I'LL--
SMAK
SHADDAP, BOTH OF YA!!

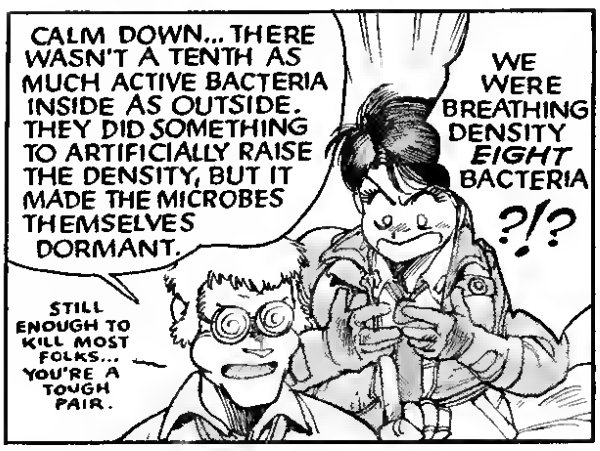

YEAH... WE JUST KINDA THOUGHT, Y'KNOW ...
CAN YOU OPEN THE SUN-ROOF?
-- JUST... er, LIKE, TRYIN' TO KEEP THE COPS LOOKIN' SOMEWHERE ELSE UNTIL THE NEXT OP...

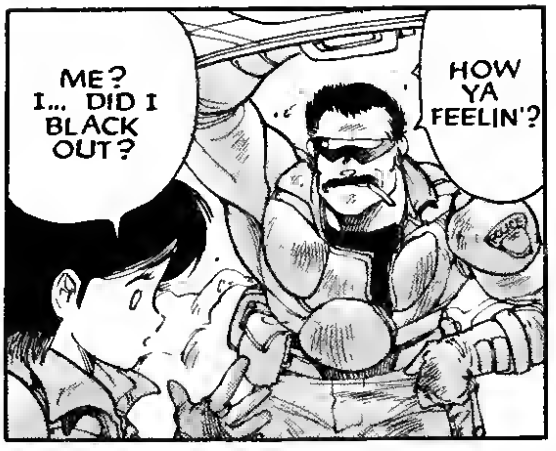

Oh, FOR SURE, UNI!! I SUPPOSE I HAD TO TIE YOU UP AND DRAG YOU ALONG, huh? LIAR!
WHAT ?!
I DIDN'T WANNA DO IT, BUT ANNA... SHE WAS LIKE PUSHIN' ME... "GONNA BE ALL RIGHT," SHE SAYS...


BITCH? YOU CALLIN' ME A BITCH?! WELL, I HEAR YOU LIKE BEIN' TIED UP, LONG-EARS!
OUCH!
Oh, YEAH?! YOU MAKE ME SOUND LIKE SOME KINDA PERVERT OR SOMETHIN'! THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE, BITCH!



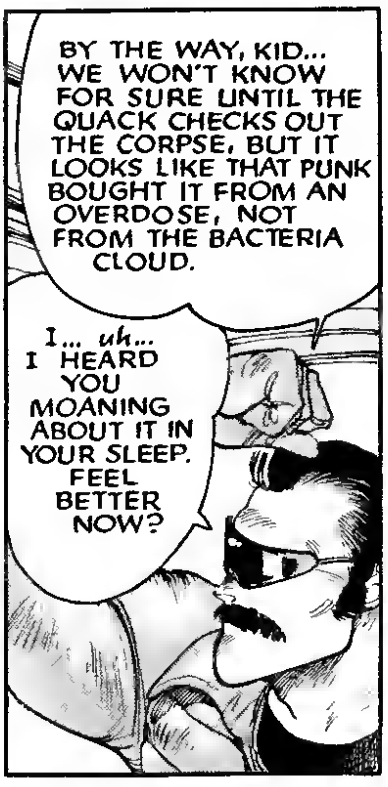
*FX WEEOOO WEEOOOO


CALM DOWN... THERE WASN'T A TENTH AS MUCH ACTIVE BACTERIA INSIDE AS OUTSIDE. THEY DID SOMETHING TO ARTIFICIALLY RAISE THE DENSITY, BUT IT MADE THE MICROBES THEMSELVES DORMANT.
WE WERE BREATHING DENSITY EIGHT BACTERIA ?!?
STILL ENOUGH TO KILL MOST FOLKS... YOU'RE A TOUGH PAIR.



*FX WEEOOO

UH, MY PATROL CAR'S GONE...
Huh... GUESS THAT ONE FISH THERE ATE TOO MUCH AND THREW THE WHOLE SYSTEM OUT OF BALANCE. SILLY BUGGER, ACTING LIKE A HUMAN...
HATE TO TELL YOU, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR ECO-SPHERE BOUGHT IT, TOO.
COULD YOU HIDE IT SOMEWHERE, BEFORE AL WAKES UP? THANKS...
TONK POLICE


BY THE WAY, KID... WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL THE QUACK CHECKS OUT THE CORPSE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT PUNK BOUGHT IT FROM AN OVERDOSE, NOT FROM THE BACTERIA CLOUD.
I... uh... I HEARD YOU MOANING ABOUT IT IN YOUR SLEEP. FEEL BETTER NOW?

*FX WEEOOOO
YOU TWO BETTER HUSTLE OFF TO THE HOSPITAL AND GET CHECKED OUT. LET ME KNOW HOW IT GOES, OKAY?
GOT IT!?
WE'LL HAUL THE TANK BACK OUR-SELVES.
*FX WEEOO
BY THE WAY, LEONA--YOU OWE AL A BIG THANK-YOU. HE FED THE LAST OF HIS OXYGEN INTO YOUR MASK AFTER YOU PASSED OUT.
A TRUE "GOOD SAMARI-TAN"...!
LOOK AT THESE FILTERS... BONA-PARTE'S IN BAD SHAPE...
LOVEABLE GOOF...!
I HOPE HE WAKES UP SOON...
AL DID THAT FOR ME?
GEE...
EEE heehee HYA HAHA!
ALONG WITH A PATROL CAR?!
THEY WHAT?! THEY DISAPPEARED ON THEIR WAY BACK TO HEAD-QUARTERS ?!
バキッ
*FX KRAK

Used to be a member of the famed Osaka Women's Motorcycle Police Unit. Lost her boyfriend, who was a member of the Traffic Mobile Team, in Case No. T9081 (otherwise known as the Runaway Garbage Truck Incident) and was transferred to the newly formed Tank Police where she has remained ever since. Solved Case T9081 only three days after joining the Tank Police and is famous as a result.

Her dream is to snare the SMG and eliminate as many hot-rod gangsters as possible with her Calico helical mag 9mm, her 10 gauge bullpup shotgun, and her Mini-Vulcan (which weighs only 5.5 lbs, fully loaded).
Height: 5' 6"
Weight: 117 lbs.
B-W-H: Unknown
Sign: Leo
Blood type: B
Doesn't have a lot of patience. To give you an example of how little patience she has, she chose an Ingram submachine gun as her preferred sidearm because it can fire so fast it doesn't have a very rat-a-tat staccato sound and sounds more like a single burst. And in the police station, she's the one who's been smashing all the coffee makers.
She really got her thighs in shape on the hill in front of the Police School at Ashiya. Used to be quite a bit heavier.
HALL MONITOR
TOMOKO KAZUMI LEONA HIROMI KAYO
In high school Leona was in the kendo fencing club. She has a second-degree black belt. She once kept a doberman she named Gotengo, but gave up keeping pets after he died from a bacterial infection.
Commutes to work every day on Highway 43, on an XR250 bike she bought at a motorcycle store called Cylindro in the Naruo ward of Nishimiya City. In the spring she walks along the row of cherry blossom trees by the Ikuta river all the way out to Highway 43.
Hobbies include touring and *i-ai* (slash-and-sheath) sword combat
Wears a size 7 shoe (claims it's only 6 1/2)

His pals call him "Brenten the Charmed." He was born under a bad sign. He uses an M96F Beretta as his main defense gun. After he flashes it and yells "freeze," though, he uses his monster Python ten-inch heavy barrel handgun (?). (There is a rumor this thing is really only a big truncheon.) He's known as "the king of the shooting range." He loves violent movies.

He's a bit of an oddball in that he likes to argue that sights and sighting grooves are really only necessary for sniper rifles, but he's very finicky about the types of crowns and grips on his guns. He's a fan of the Yomiuri Giants baseball team and really sticks out in the Newport station, because almost everyone else is a Hanshin Tigers fan.

Mrs. Brenten, Sumaiza, is a former All-Kansai Body Building champ. Charles has a real soft spot for her. His eldest son, Hind, is popular among his pals; they think the pummelings he's taken ever since birth have given him self-control.
A true walking battle machine, with a brain fully on par with a vacuum-tube computer.
In the not-so-distant future, we may see Brenten's face without glasses
Really likes this type of gun. Enjoys feeling like a true terrorist.
The wife's in an upbeat mood. She just won ten grand the other day in the lottery.
Bullpup-type
The lever on the spare helical magazine on Brenten's hip can be raised, rotated, and tightened. Putting it in a horizontal mode makes it possible to use the lever as a reassuring pseudo-sight.
This family has weird dining habits. Charles likes Japanese-style Chinese food.
TOP GUN
Very big feet
Drives a Hyonde (or is it Hyundai?). Every time he goes to a barbecue party he has a problem with the suspension, but this appears to be due to the way he drives, and not the fault of the car.
A big fan of the former sumo *yokozuna* champion Chiyonofuji (in this era, the *yokozuna* have all retired and are training junior wrestlers). Often takes his family to the sumo matches at Osaka.

DOMINION™

PART III [NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN]

OKAY... SEE YOU TO-MORROW!
WATER! WATER...!
POLICE
POLICE
I'M GONNA SUE THAT IDIOT PSYCHIA-TRIC EVALUA-TOR !!
WISH I COULD, PAL!
HEY, YOU GONNA KILL ME? YOU'RE GONNA KILL ME, RIGHT?!
I TELL YA, IT WAS BRUTAL... GUTS ALL OVER THE PLACE... HIS HEAD WAS SQUASHED LIKE A GRAPE. GREAT STUFF!
NO, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN-- HE'S GOT SOME KIND OF SEXUAL COMPLEX
HELLO. POLICE. Oh. IT'S YOU AGAIN... THE PROPHET OF DOOM.
BANG!
JUST LIKE THAT!
THE WHOLE DAMN THING WENT OFF! RIGHT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA, TOO... TWENTY-TWO PEOPLE DEAD, PLUS ONE CAT!
*FX TAKKA TAKKA TAK RRIINNGG
YOU SHOOT THE SON OF A BITCH ...?!
...I MEAN, JUST WHAT WAS HE THINKING ?!
SOME KIND OF WARPED JOKE?
THAT KID WAS JUST SIXTEEN... TIES TWENTY LOADED SHOTGUNS TO HIS CAR! HOOKS THEM UP TO AN ELECTRIC TRIGGERING DEVICE...

*FX: DRRN DRRN DRRN DRRN DRRN
HELM! ALL AHEAD, ONE-THIRD!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
RIGHT!
BUAKU... MESSAGE HERE FROM THE BIG BOSS: "OPERATION GO. PRAYING FOR YOUR SUCCESS."
YOU KNOW... I WISH BUAKU AN' HIS GANG WERE ON THEIR WAY ALREADY, AND THE BOSS'D PICK US UP. I'M TIRED OF THIS...
YEAH, BUT BUAKU GOT 'EM FROM THE BIG BOSS, RIGHT? I MEAN, THEY'RE MADE JUST FOR US!
FX: DRRN DRRN
I JUST HATE THOSE DUMB ATTACK HELI-COPTERS, ANNA!
CLOSE THE HATCH! WE'RE DIVING!
I'LL WARM UP THE KREECHIKA FOR YOU, 'KAY?
*FX: DRRN DRRN DRRN

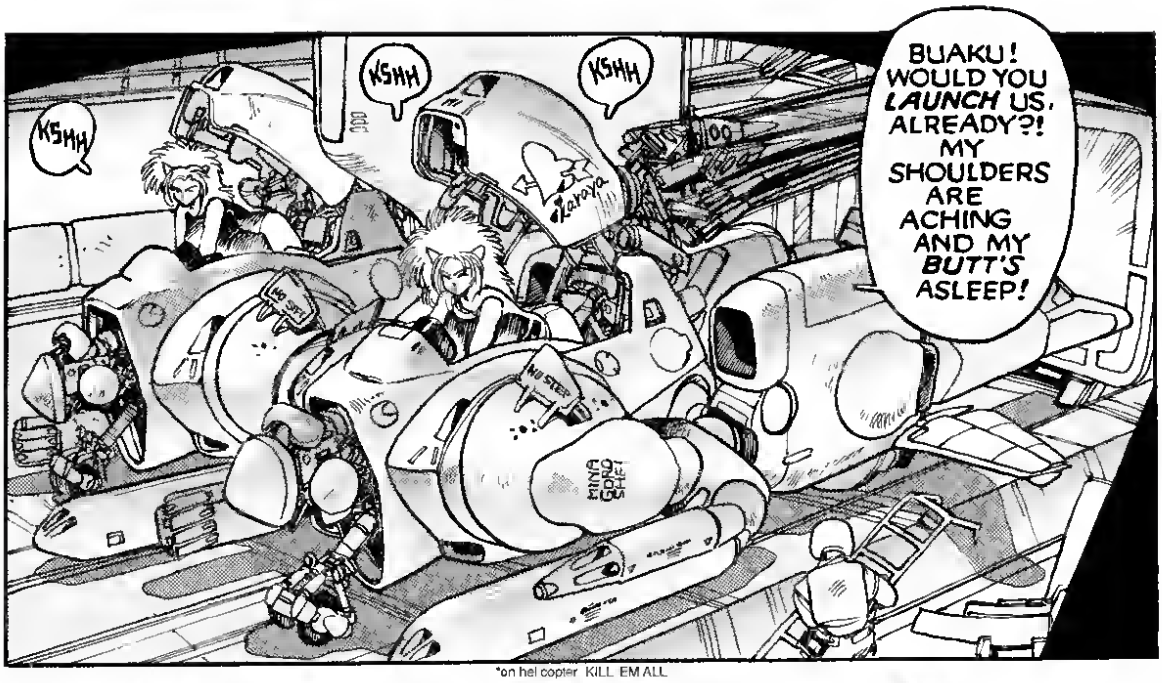
DRRN DRRN
DRRN DRRN
WELCOME TO "SAND PORT"...!
*FX DRRN DRRN
*FX DRRN DRRN
HEY, DID YOU FEEL THE SHIP ROCK JUST NOW?
NAW... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN AT SEA TOO LONG... YOU START TO FEEL IT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE DOCKED.

*book APPLESEED 3 TRY BLACK MAGIC TOO!

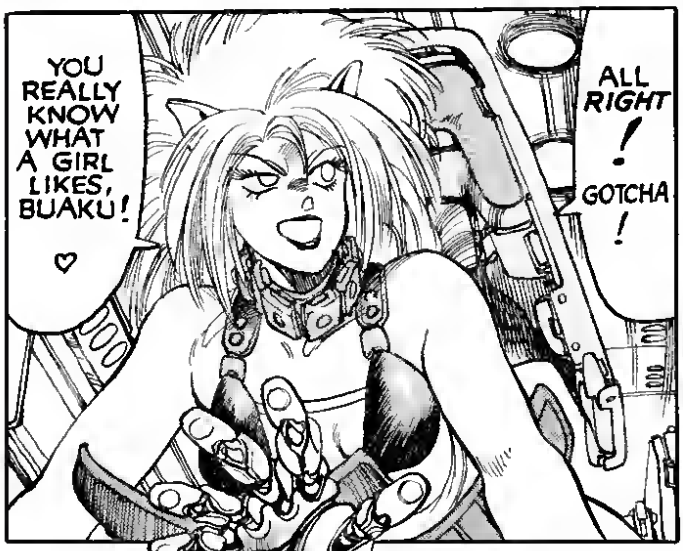
*FX BROOOO
*FX DRRN DRRN
NO, NO! THAT ONE!
HEY!
Huh?
?

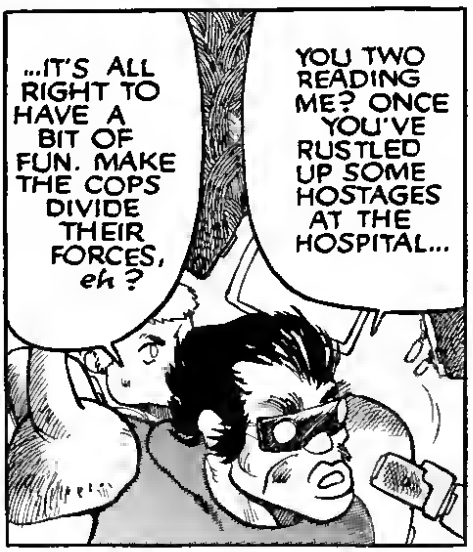
HEY! WHA--
??
NIPPON
*FX: WHOK KRAK
AW, NO FAIR!
*WHDD
*FX: FWMP
YOUR BOAT'S IN THE WAY, HONEY. FIGURE YOU WOULDN'T MIND, LIKE, MOVING IT, huh?
THUD

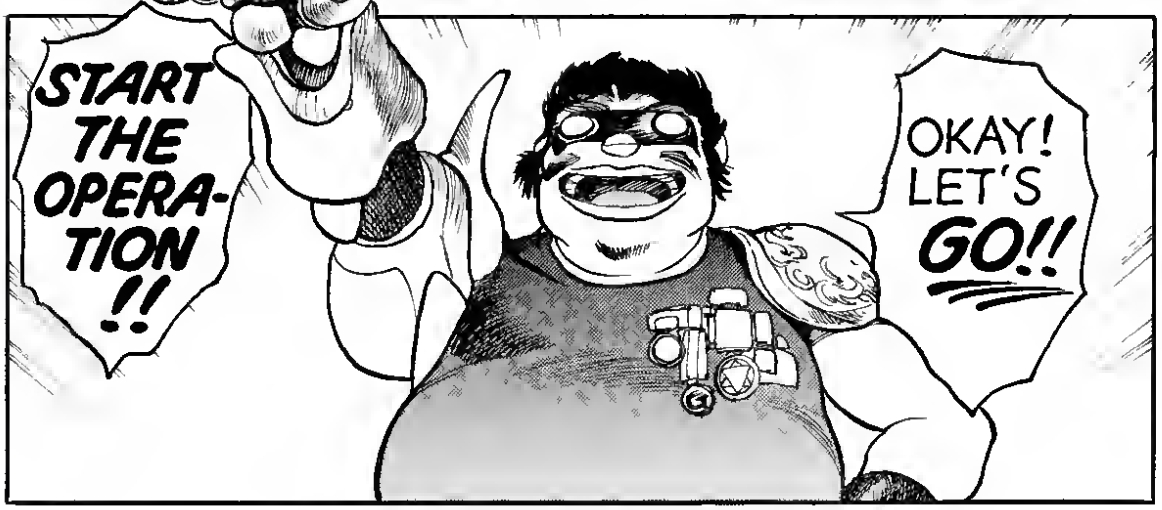
Heh, heh...
*FX DRRN DRRN DRRN DRRN
RIG PLANES FOR SURFAC-ING!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
ALL RIGHT, THEN... SHALL WE PUT ASHORE?
GUNNERY ROOM! AS SOON AS WE SURFACE, SHELL THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGES, THEN HIT THE MAIN HIGHWAYS!
UNIPUMA'S BACK ALREADY... WHEN WE GONNA STOP SCREWIN' AROUND AND *SHOOT SOMETHIN'*, BUAKU ?!

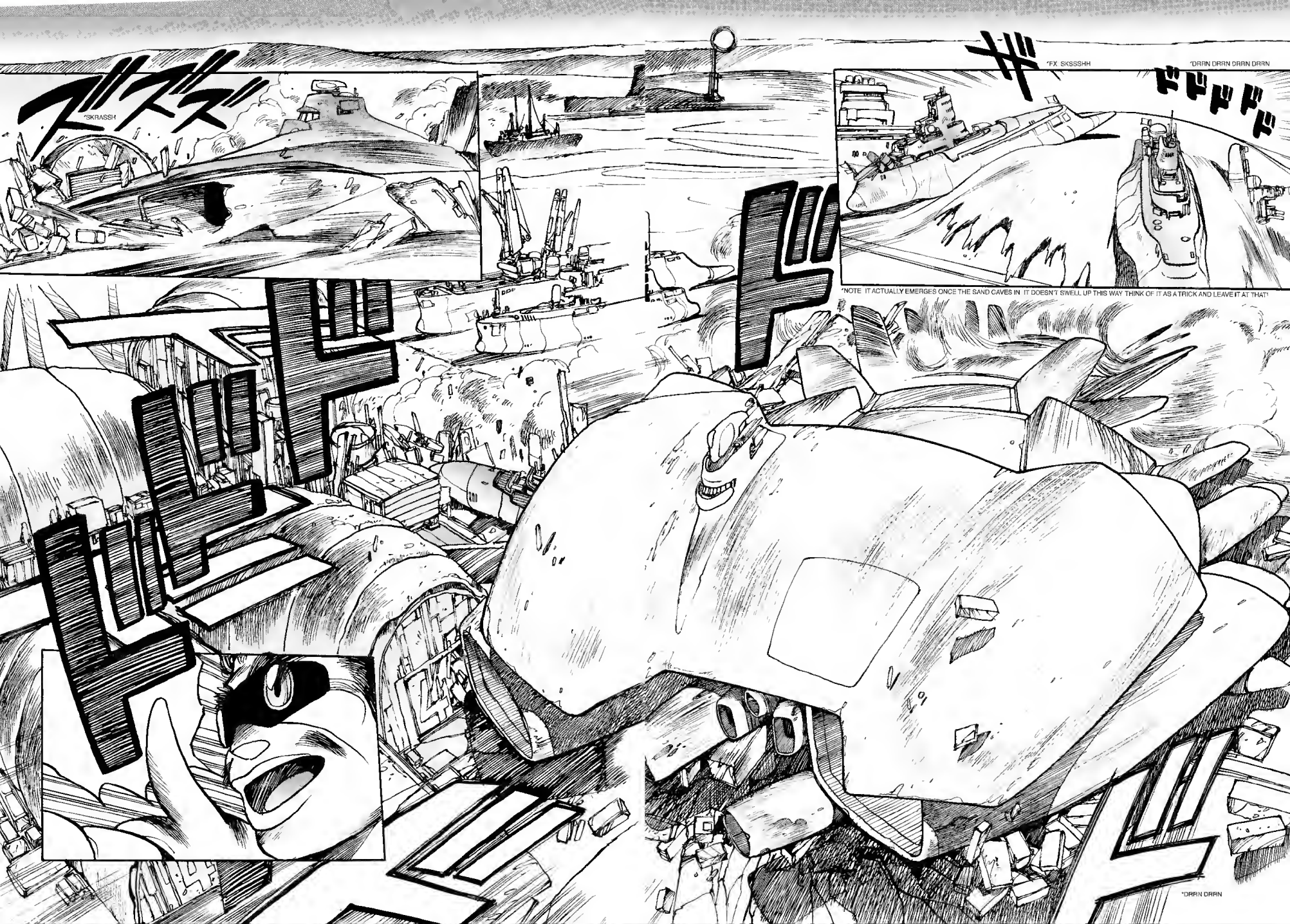


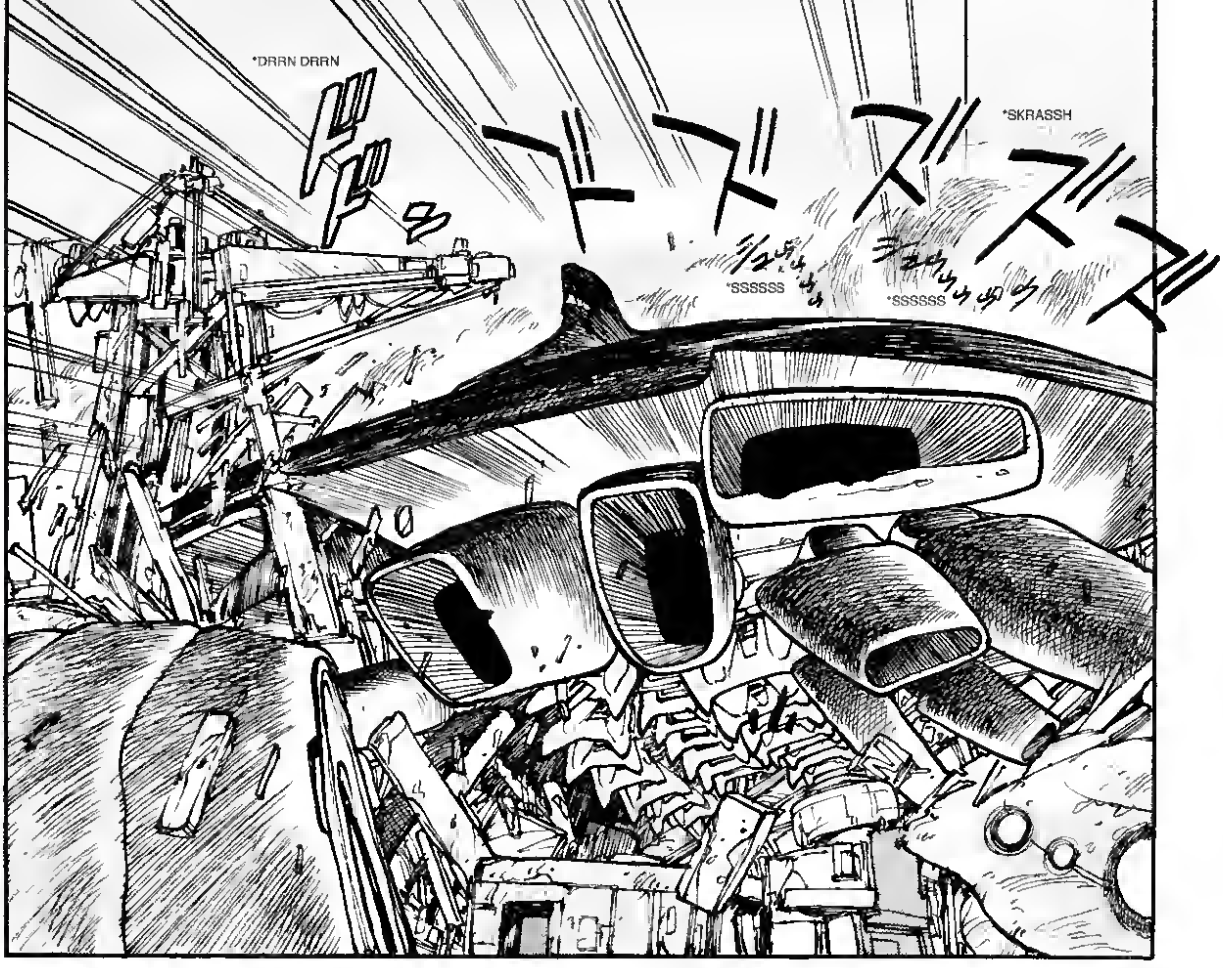
*on hel copter KILL EM ALL



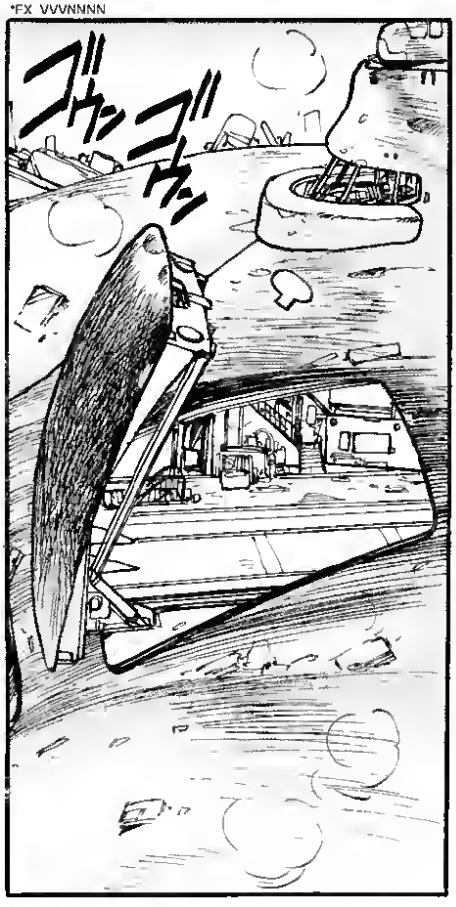

...IT'S ALL RIGHT TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN. MAKE THE COPS DIVIDE THEIR FORCES, eh?
YOU TWO READING ME? ONCE YOU'VE RUSTLED UP SOME HOSTAGES AT THE HOSPITAL...




*SKRASSH
*FX: SKSSSHH
*DRRN DRRN DRRN DRRN
*NOTE: IT ACTUALLY EMERGES ONCE THE SAND CAVES IN. IT DOESN'T SWELL UP THIS WAY. THINK OF IT AS A TRICK AND LEAVE IT AT THAT!
*DRRN DRRN

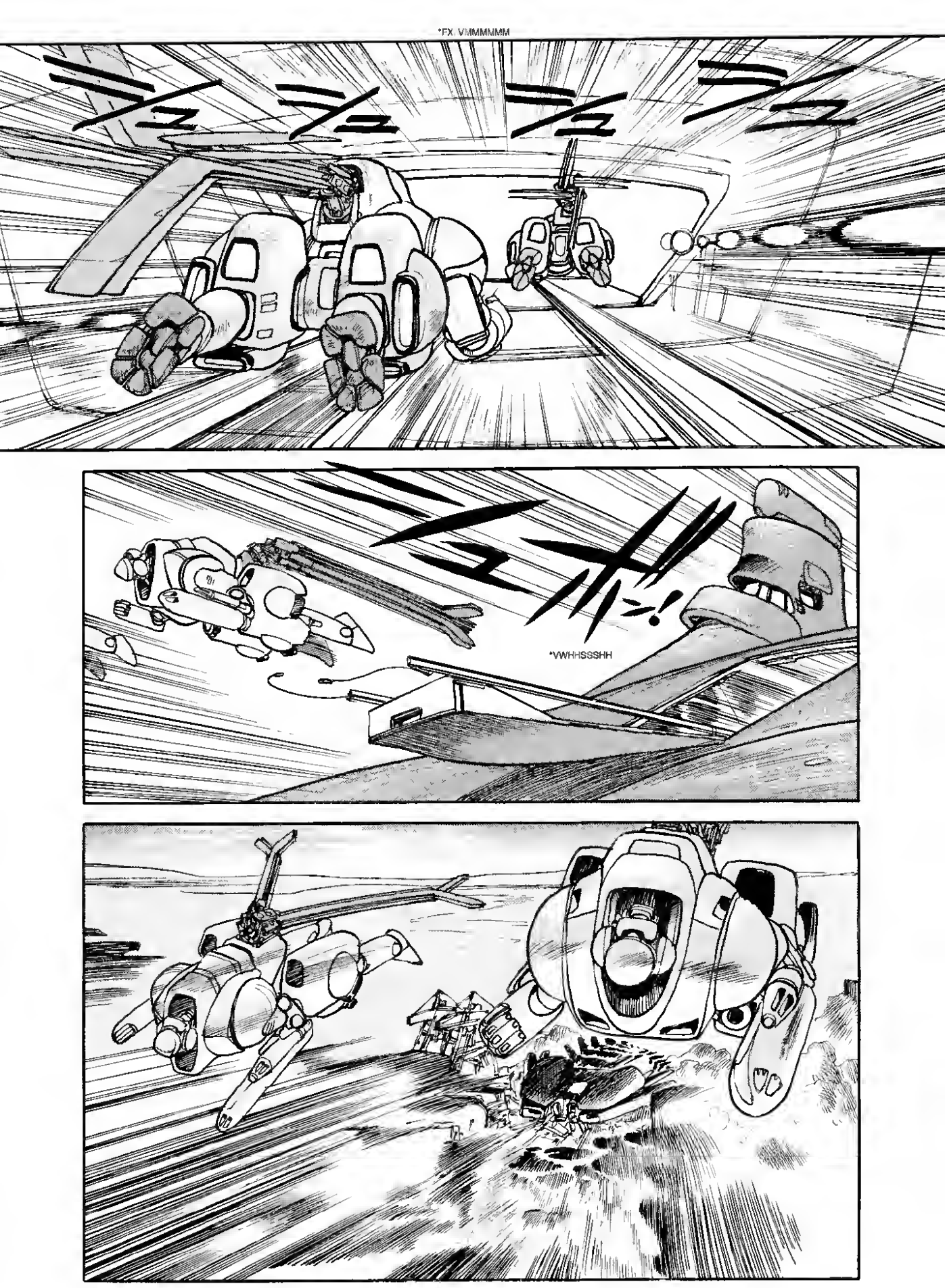

*DRRN DRRN
*SKRASSH
*SSSSSS
*SSSSSS
*FX VVVNNNN

WE'RE USING THE CATAPULTS! PREPARE FOR A BRIEF BLACKOUT!



*FX KCHAK

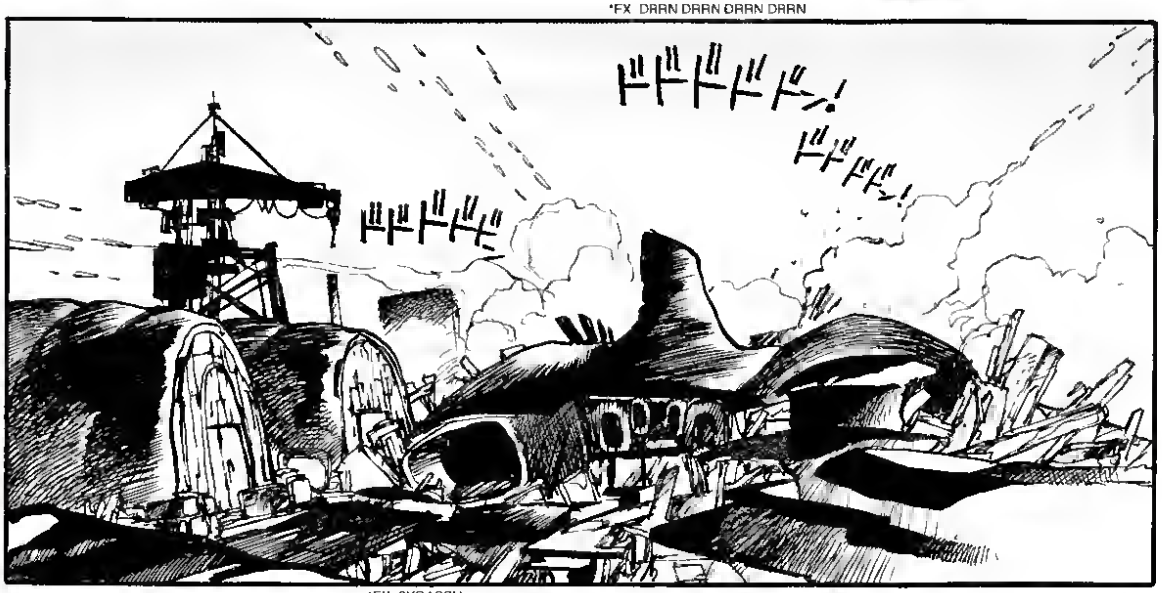
UNI, YOU DUMMY! DON'T EVEN LET HIM KNOW YOU EXIST, OR HE MIGHT INVITE YOU UP TO HEAVEN FOR A PERMANENT PARTY!
Aw, GEEZ...! DEAR GOD, PLEASE KEEP MY ROTORS FROM DISINTEGRATING IN MID-AIR!
*FX MMMMM


*FX. VMMMMMM
*VWHHSSSHH

*FX WHKOOM
WHA-WHA-WHAT THE HELL?!
AEE!
KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK KCHAK
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THIS FAIL!
YUP YUP YUP
KEEP LOBBING SHELLS UNTIL ANNA AND UNI HAVE THE HOSTAGES AND WE'RE HEADING OUT TO SEA. KEEP THE COPS LOOKING THIS WAY!
REMEMBER, YOU KILL SOMEONE AND THAT'S IT! INJURE SOMEONE AND YOU TIE UP THREE PEOPLE TAKING CARE OF HIM!
AIM FOR THE HIGH-RISES AND SLUMS! THE MORE INJURIES, THE BETTER!
WHOK
CROLIS! WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
*FX SPRTT
NO PROB, BOSS! Heh, heh, heh!

EVERYONE ELSE IS BUSY PACKING, SO WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THEM A HAND, eh?
HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE, GIRL. JUST PUT UP WITH IT A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?
THERE'S NO LIGHT IN HERE...
ANY-TIME YOU WANT, FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT!
IF THIS OPERATION WORKS, THEN YOU CAN HAVE THE WHOLE SUN TO YOURSELF!
IT'S GOODBYE AND GOOD RIDDANCE TO THIS DYING LUMP OF DIRT!
WE'LL TRADE THE HOSTAGES FOR A SPACE SHUTTLE AND STARSHIP!

*FX DRRN DRRN DRRN DRRN



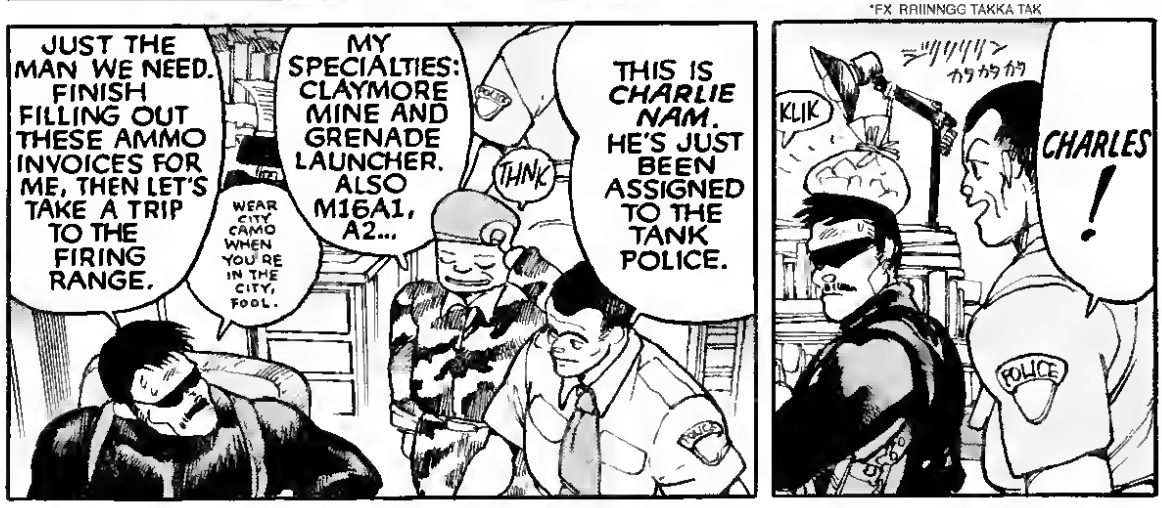
*FX SKRASSH

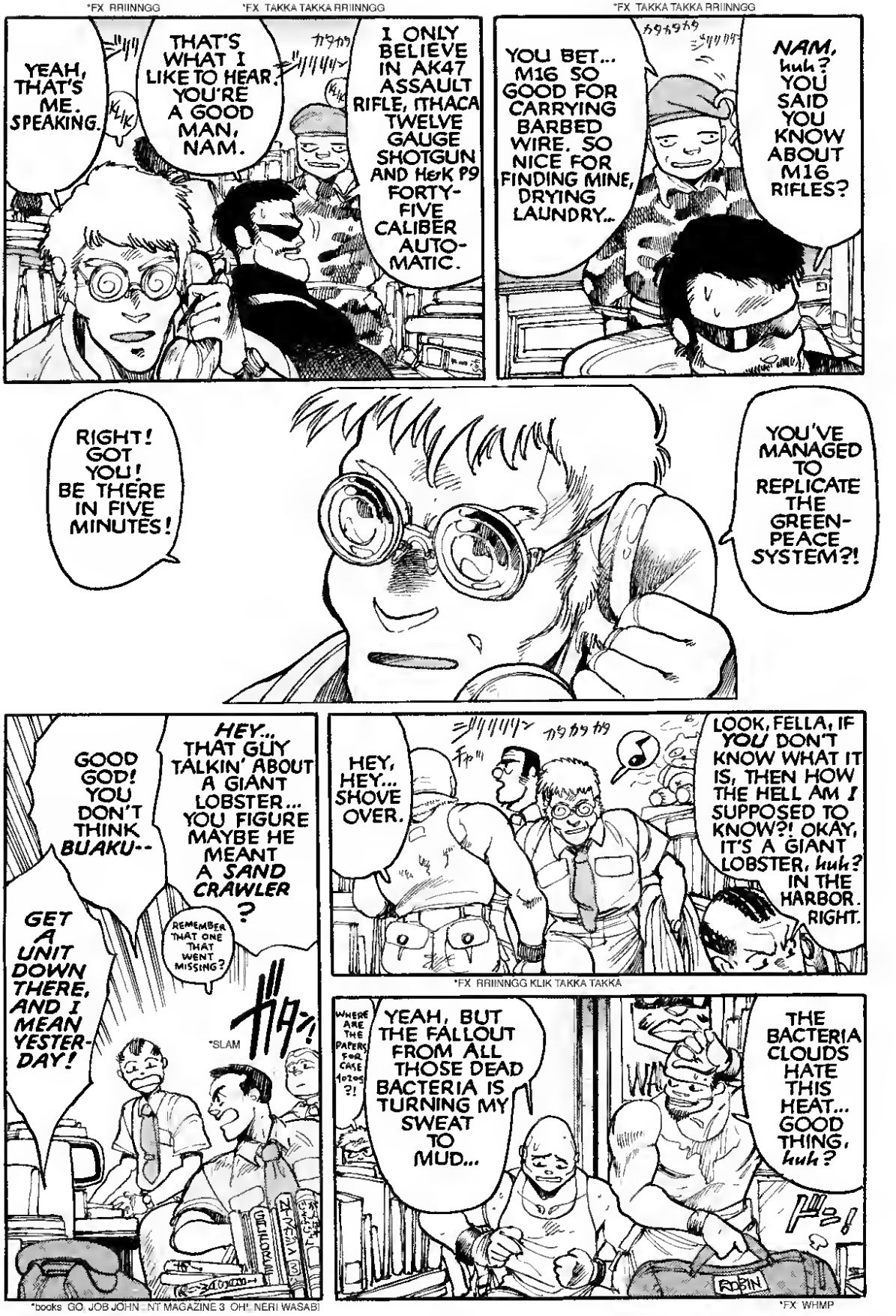
*RRIINNGG
?!
ARF
AVC
REC
THEY BLEW UP A RESIDENTIAL HOTEL?
FUNNY NO ONE'S TAKING CREDIT...
TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN THE SLUMS?
BALLS OF FIRE? UFOs? CALL THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, FELLA.
KLIK
BUT I'M SO BEAUTIFUL! HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY SPOT ME AS A GUY?!
KLIK
HELLO, POLICE HERE. HELLO...? HELLO?
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?! TOO GODDAMN EARLY IN THE SUMMER FOR FIRE-WORKS...
FWIP FWIP FWIP
*RRIINNGG
*MNCH MNCH
Huh? YOU'RE SEEING BALLS OF FIRE? YEAH, SURE YOU ARE. CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, LADY.
SMACK
HELLO, POLICE HERE. GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS AND THEN STATE YOUR PROBLEM ...

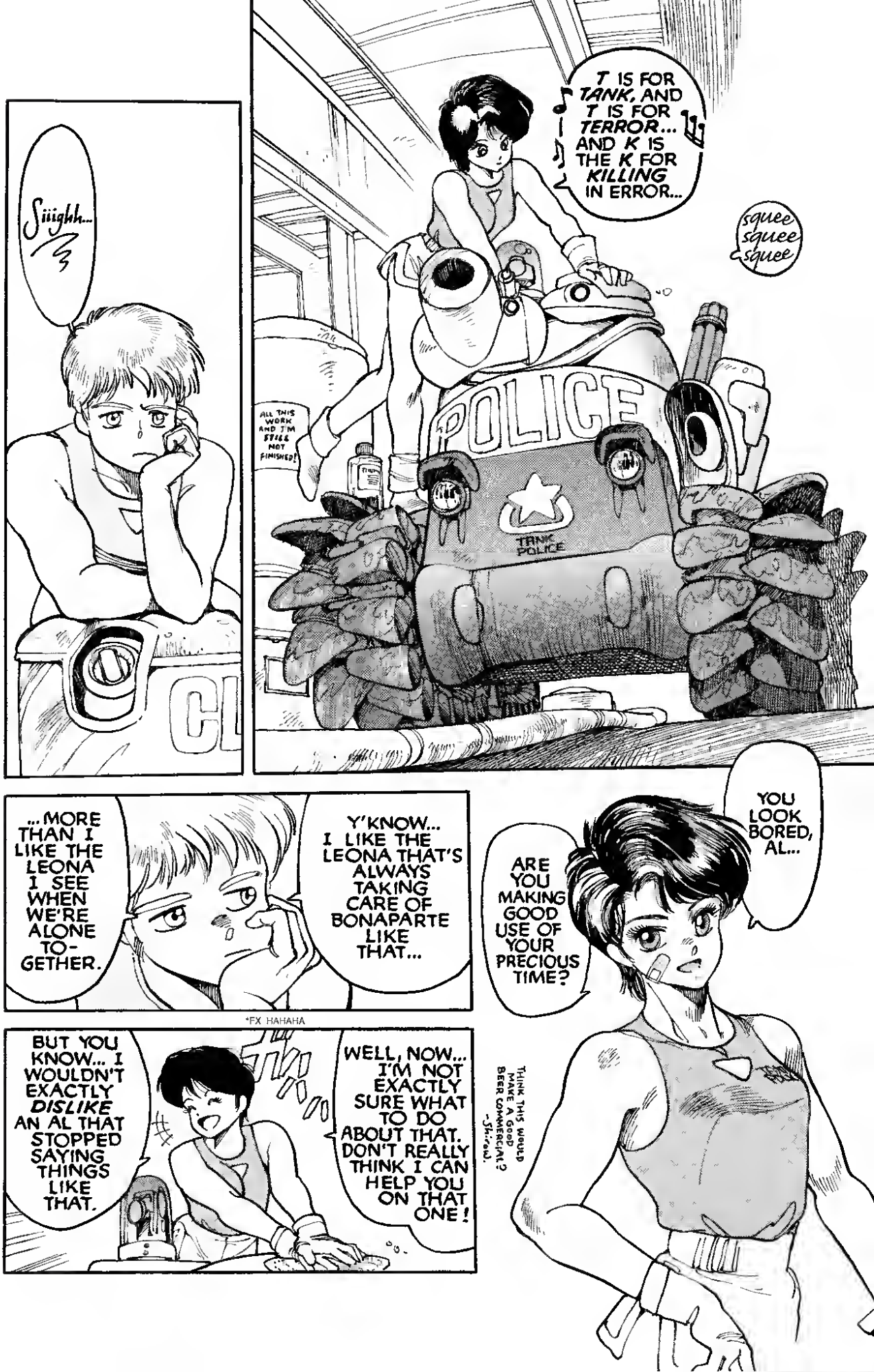
*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK *FX TAKKA TAK *FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK

DOWN WITH HER PET TANK, I'D IMAGINE.
WHERE'D LEONA GET TO?
I'M ON MY WAY!
HEY! RAFE JUST KILLED HIS FIRST GUY! HE'S IN SHOCK DOWNSTAIRS-- TIME FOR THE POLICE CHAPLAIN, MAYBE...?
Bullitt
22

*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK

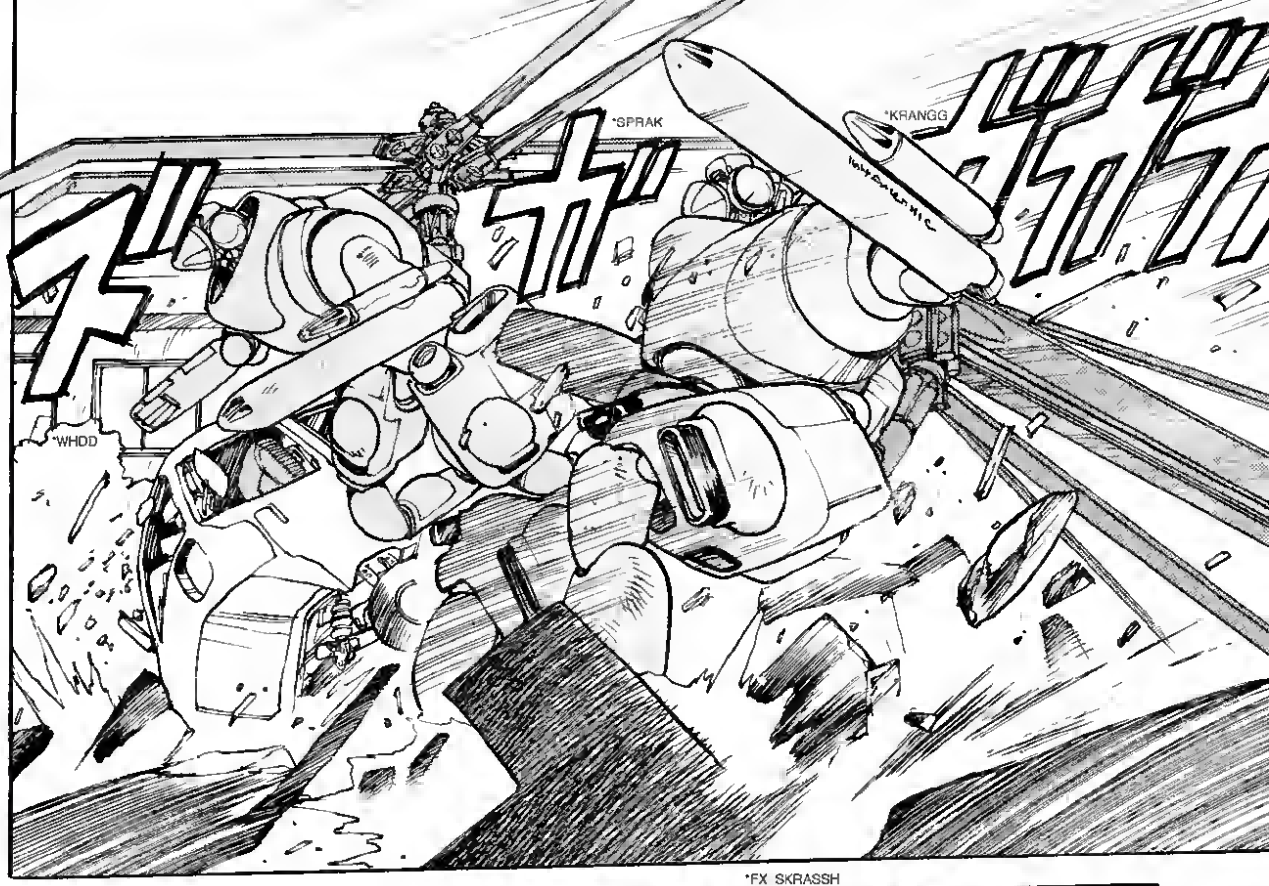

JUST THE MAN WE NEED. FINISH FILLING OUT THESE AMMO INVOICES FOR ME, THEN LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO THE FIRING RANGE.
WEAR CITY CAMO WHEN YOU'RE IN THE CITY, FOOL.
MY SPECIALTIES: CLAYMORE MINE AND GRENADE LAUNCHER. ALSO M16A1, A2...
THINK
THIS IS CHARLIE NAM. HE'S JUST BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE TANK POLICE.
KLIK
CHARLES!
POLICE


*FX RRIINNGG
*FX TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG
YEAH, THAT'S ME. SPEAKING.
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, NAM.
I ONLY BELIEVE IN AK47 ASSAULT RIFLE, ITHACA TWELVE GAUGE SHOTGUN AND H&K P9 FORTY-FIVE CALIBER AUTO-MATIC.
*FX TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG
YOU BET... M16 SO GOOD FOR CARRYING BARBED WIRE. SO NICE FOR FINDING MINE, DRYING LAUNDRY...
NAM, huh? YOU SAID YOU KNOW ABOUT M16 RIFLES?
RIGHT! GOT YOU! BE THERE IN FIVE MINUTES!
YOU'VE MANAGED TO REPLICATE THE GREEN-PEACE SYSTEM?!
GOOD GOD! YOU DON'T THINK BUAKU--
HEY.. THAT GUY TALKIN' ABOUT A GIANT LOBSTER... YOU FIGURE MAYBE HE MEANT A SAND CRAWLER ?
REMEMBER THAT ONE THAT WENT MISSING?
GET A UNIT DOWN THERE, AND I MEAN YESTER-DAY!
*SLAM
*books GO, JOB JOHN...NT MAGAZINE 3 OH!_NERI WASABI
HEY, HEY... SHOVE OVER.
LOOK, FELLA, IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, THEN HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?! OKAY, IT'S A GIANT LOBSTER, huh? IN THE HARBOR. RIGHT.
*FX RRIINNGG KLIK TAKKA TAKKA
WHERE ARE THE PAPERS FOR CASE 10205 ?!
YEAH, BUT THE FALLOUT FROM ALL THOSE DEAD BACTERIA IS TURNING MY SWEAT TO MUD...
THE BACTERIA CLOUDS HATE THIS HEAT... GOOD THING, huh?
ROBIN
*FX WHMP

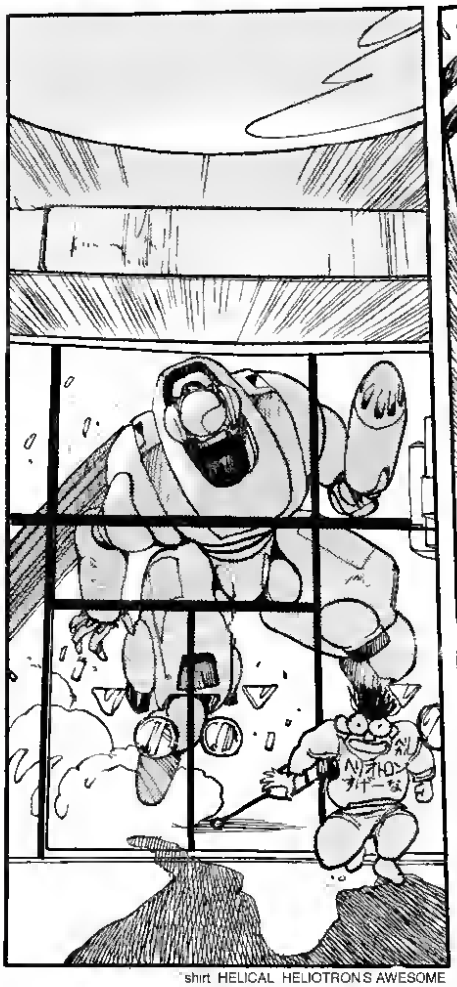

Siiighh...
T IS FOR TANK, AND T IS FOR TERROR... AND K IS THE K FOR KILLING IN ERROR...
squee squee squee
ALL THIS WORK AND I'M STILL NOT FINISHED!
POLICE
TANK POLICE
...MORE THAN I LIKE THE LEONA I SEE WHEN WE'RE ALONE TO-GETHER.
Y'KNOW... I LIKE THE LEONA THAT'S ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF BONAPARTE LIKE THAT...
*FX: HAHAHA
BUT YOU KNOW... I WOULDN'T EXACTLY DISLIKE AN AL THAT STOPPED SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT.
WELL, NOW... I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THAT. DON'T REALLY THINK I CAN HELP YOU ON THAT ONE!
YOU LOOK BORED, AL...
ARE YOU MAKING GOOD USE OF YOUR PRECIOUS TIME?
THINK THIS WOULD MAKE A GOOD BEER COMMERCIAL? -Shirow.

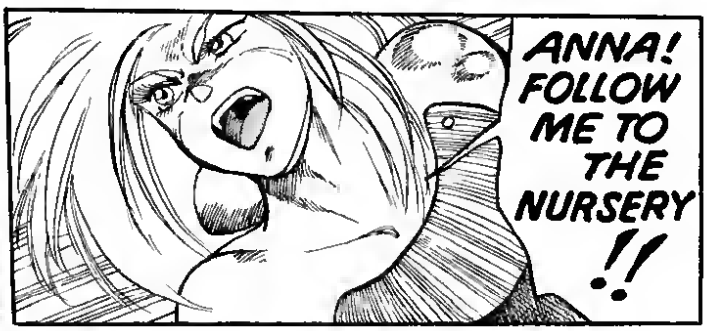
I GIVE UP... ....
NOW, THAT'S SOMEONE I COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH!!
PROFESSIONAL STREET-FIGHTER, A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN WITH SUPER-POWERS, A CORDON BLEU CHEF, LOVES KIDS, GREGARIOUS, FAITHFUL, AND TRUE...
JUST SOMEONE WHO'S LEVEL-HEADED, HEALTHY, STUNNINGLY HANDSOME, NOT ACCIDENT-PRONE, INCREDIBLY RICH, CHEERFUL, ACTIVE, CRACKLING WITH ENERGY, SPORTS-LOVER, GENTLE, STRONG, WITH A STREAK OF GOOD LUCK...
I MEAN, I'M NOT ASKING FOR MORE THAN THAT!
I'M ME. CAN'T ASK FOR MORE THAN THAT, hmmm ?
THAT'S GOOD... YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
Whew!
Aw, I DON'T REALLY MEAN THAT. RISING EXPECTATIONS ARE WHAT RUINED OLD JAPAN...
ALL TANK POLICE
TO DUTY STATIONS
HERE WE GO AGAIN... JUST LIKE ALWAYS...
AW, GEEZ...
?!
YOU'RE MY VERY, VERY IMPORTANT PARTNER ...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER? SHE BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY ROMANTIC MOVIES...?
I WONDER IF THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
SHE'S STILL YOUNG.. HER BIO-CLOCK'S NOT TICKING YET!

*FX WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO WEEOO

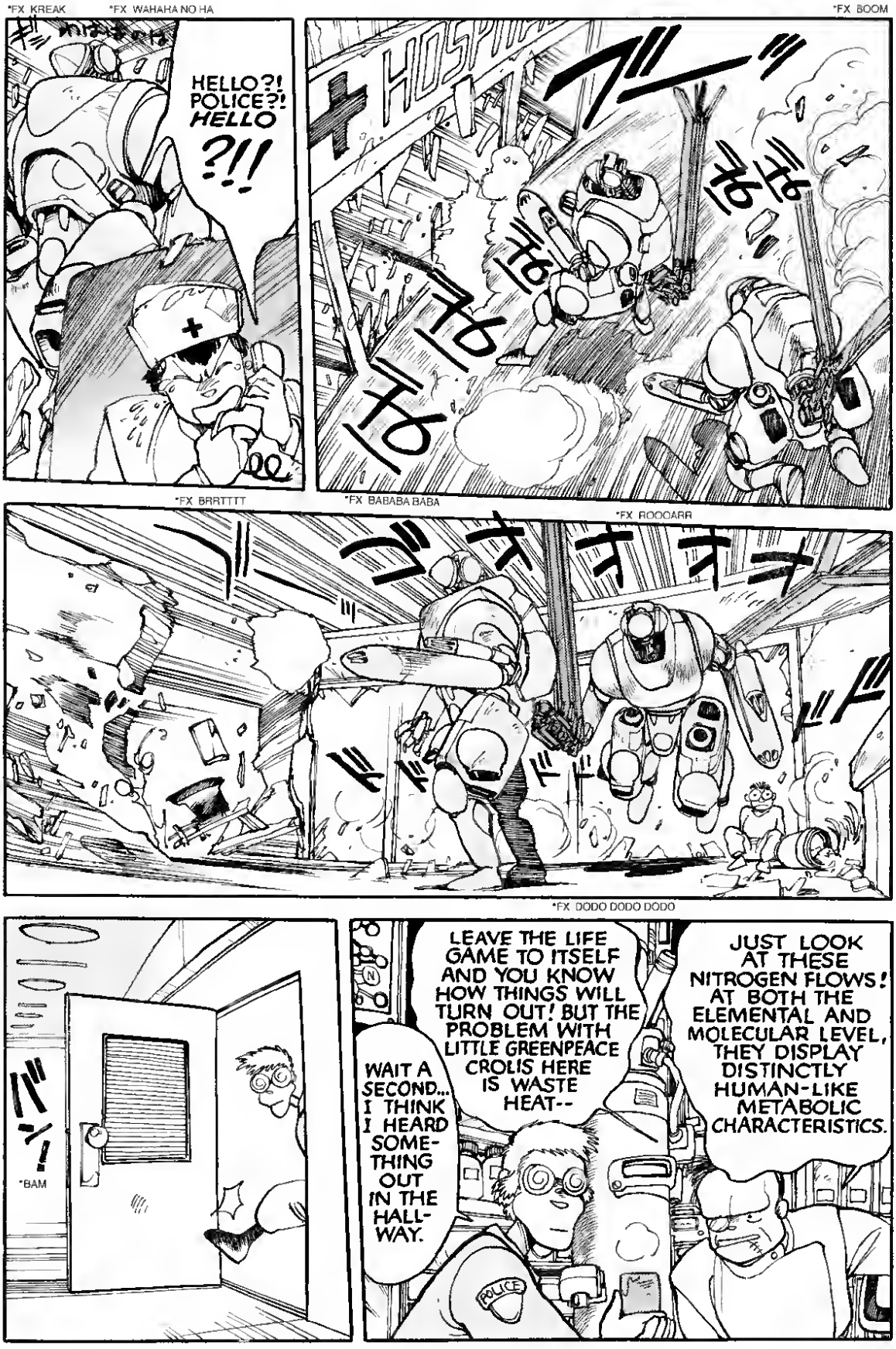


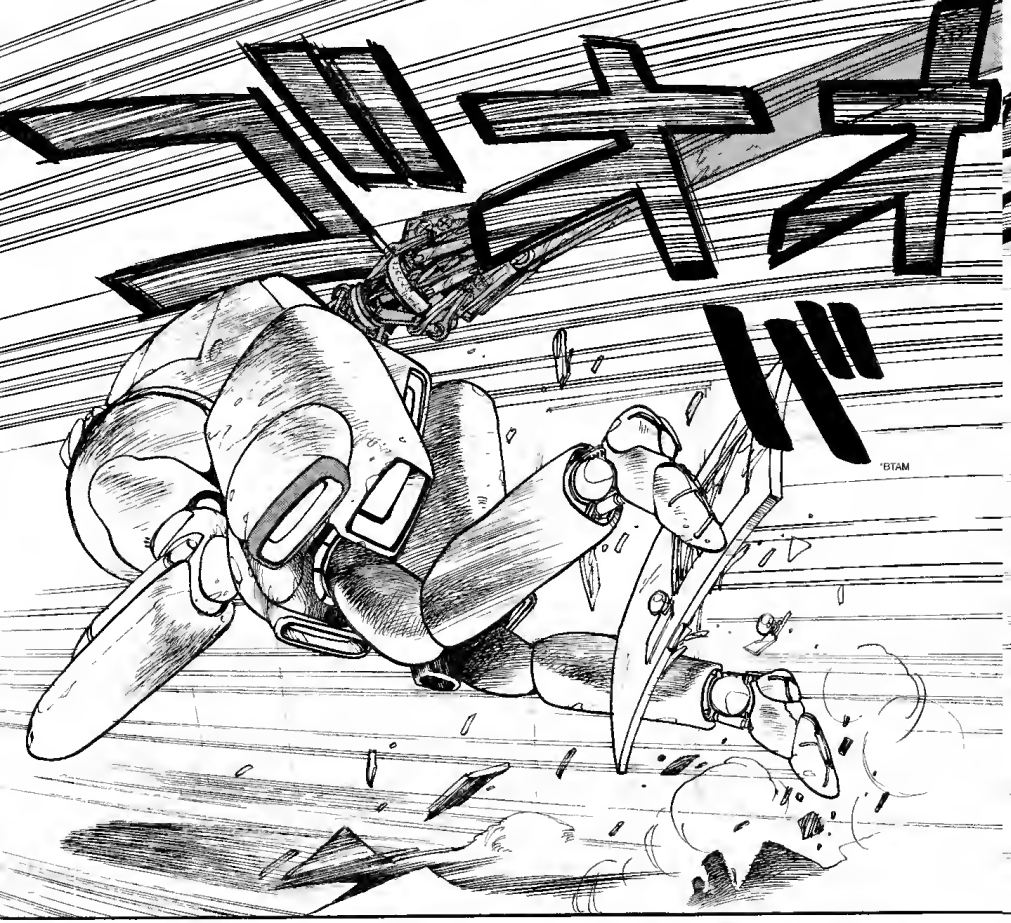
*FX SKRASSH

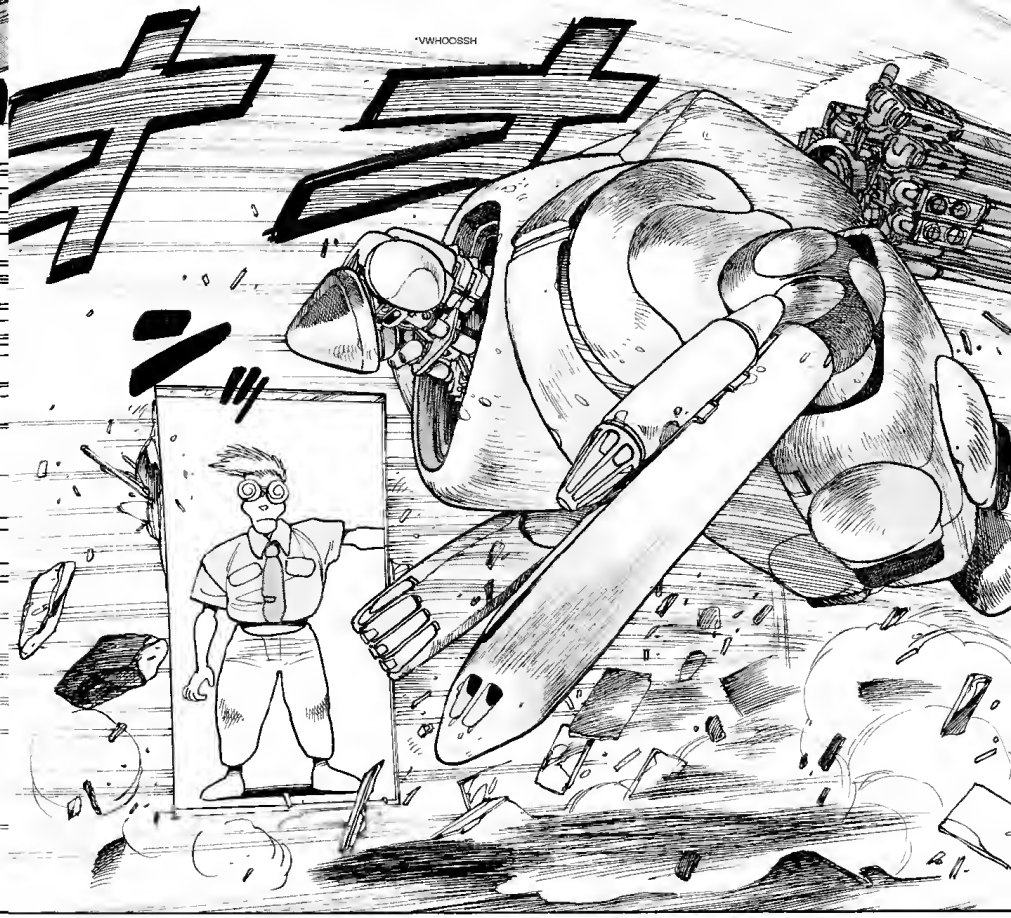


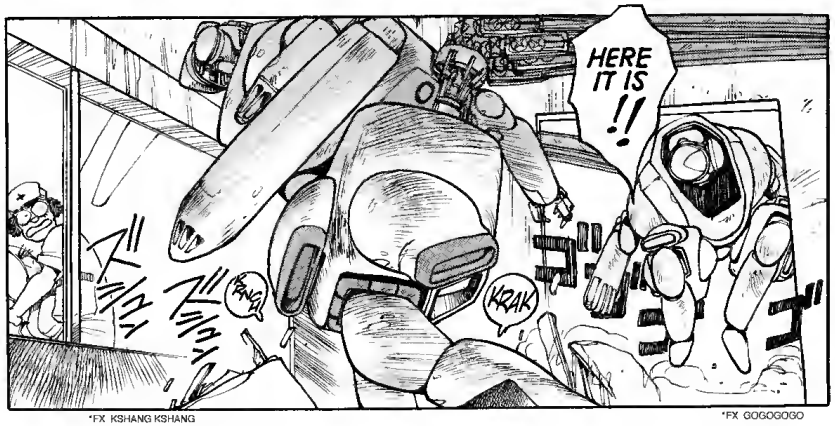


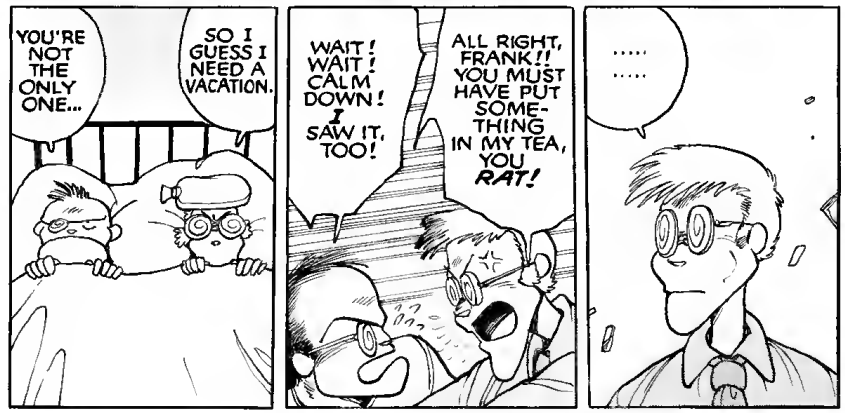
*shirt HELICAL HELIOTRONS AWESOME

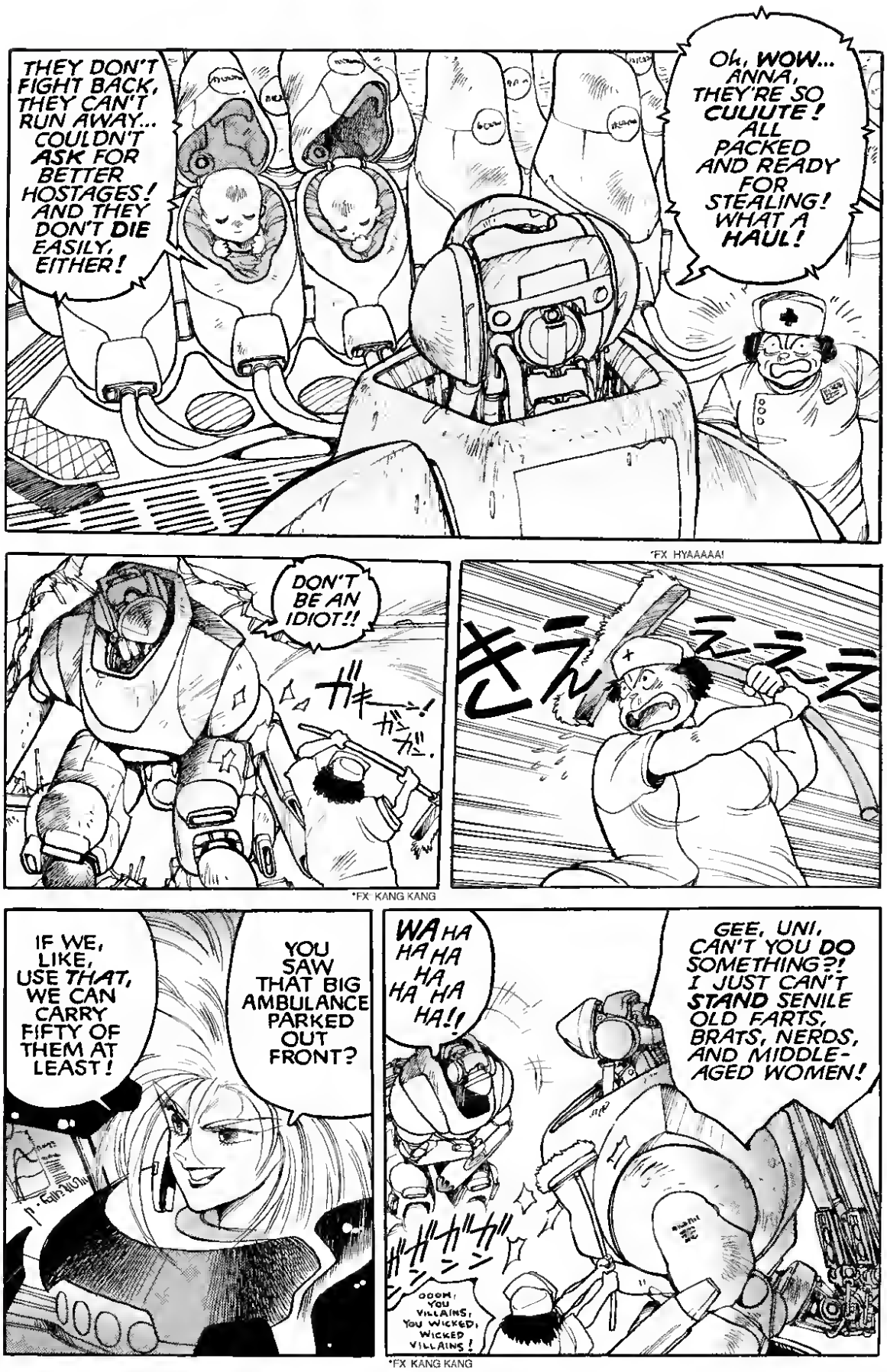

*FX KREAK
*FX WAHAHA NO HA
HELLO?! POLICE?! HELLO ?!!
*FX BOOM
*FX BRRTTTT
*FX BABABA BABA
*FX ROOOARR
*FX DODO DODO DODO
*BAM
WAIT A SECOND... I THINK I HEARD SOME-THING OUT IN THE HALL-WAY.
LEAVE THE LIFE GAME TO ITSELF AND YOU KNOW HOW THINGS WILL TURN OUT! BUT THE PROBLEM WITH LITTLE GREENPEACE CROLIS HERE IS WASTE HEAT--
JUST LOOK AT THESE NITROGEN FLOWS! AT BOTH THE ELEMENTAL AND MOLECULAR LEVEL, THEY DISPLAY DISTINCTLY HUMAN-LIKE METABOLIC CHARACTERISTICS.
POLICE

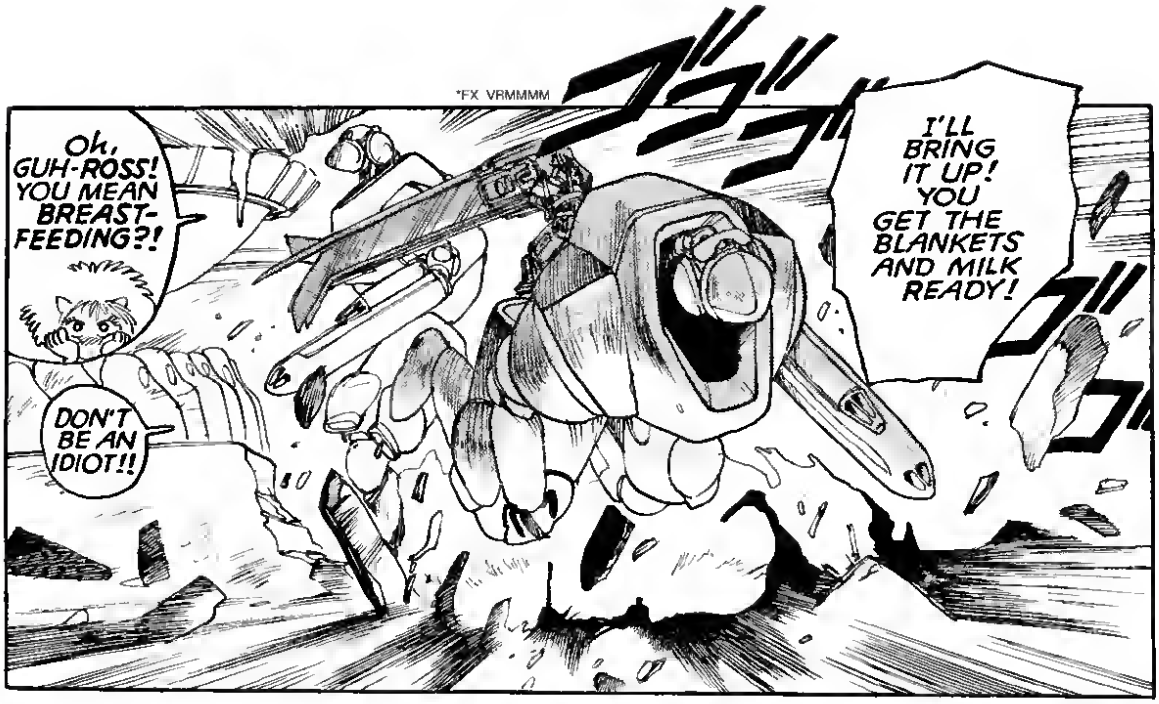

*BTAM


*VWHOOSSH

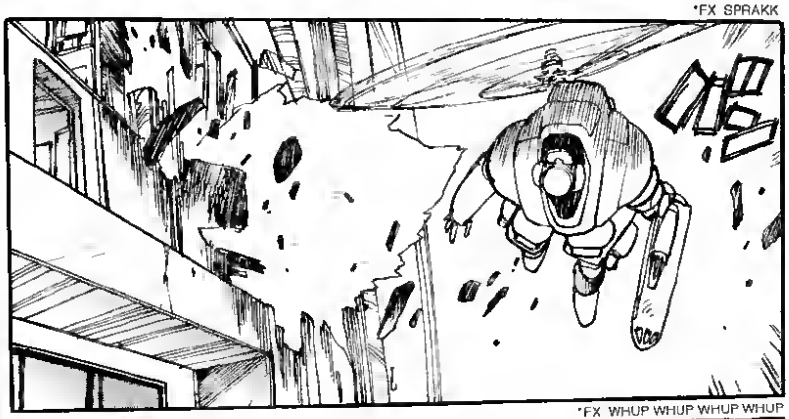

HERE IT IS !!
KRAK
*FX KSHANG KSHANG
*FX GOGOGOGO


YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE...
SO I GUESS I NEED A VACATION.
WAIT! WAIT! CALM DOWN! I SAW IT, TOO!
ALL RIGHT, FRANK!! YOU MUST HAVE PUT SOME-THING IN MY TEA, YOU RAT!
.....
.....

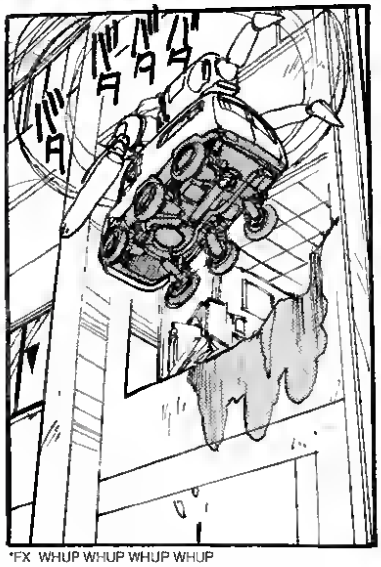

THEY DON'T FIGHT BACK, THEY CAN'T RUN AWAY... COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER HOSTAGES! AND THEY DON'T DIE EASILY, EITHER!
Oh, WOW... ANNA, THEY'RE SO CUUUTE! ALL PACKED AND READY FOR STEALING! WHAT A HAUL!
*FX HYAAAAA!
DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!
ガキーン!
ガンガン
キラ
ラーラー
*FX KANG KANG
IF WE, LIKE, USE THAT, WE CAN CARRY FIFTY OF THEM AT LEAST!
YOU SAW THAT BIG AMBULANCE PARKED OUT FRONT?
WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
GEE, UNI, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?! I JUST CAN'T STAND SENILE OLD FARTS, BRATS, NERDS, AND MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN!
OOOH, YOU VILLAINS, YOU WICKED, WICKED VILLAINS!
*FX KANG KANG



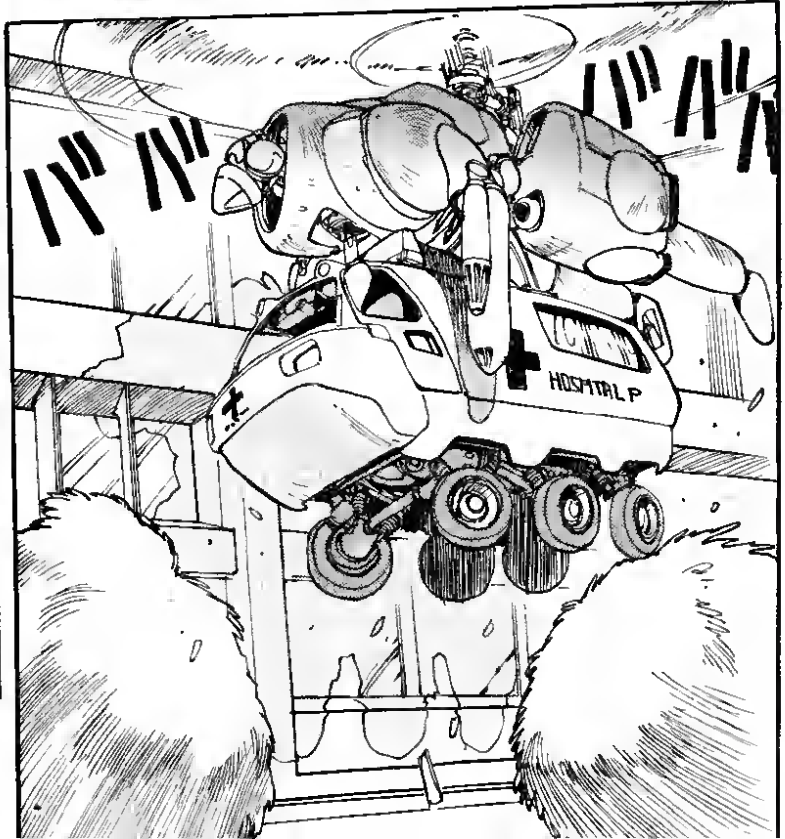
*FX SPRAKK

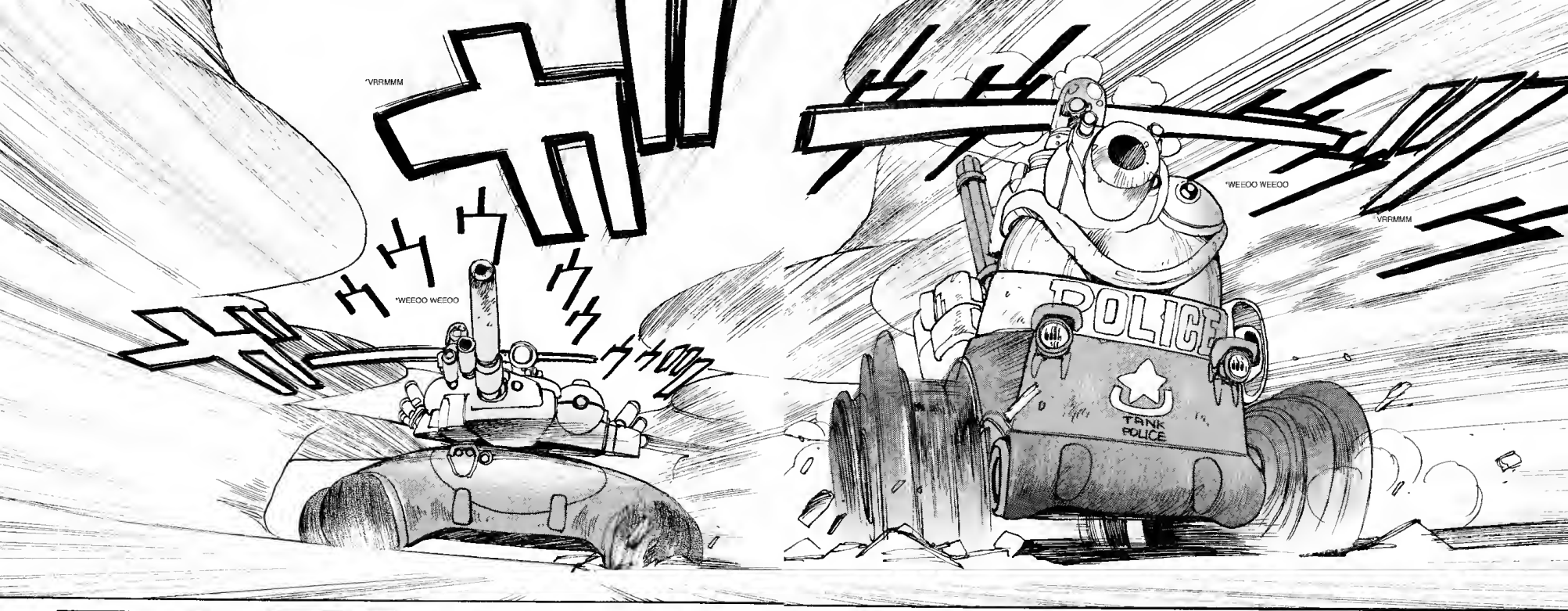


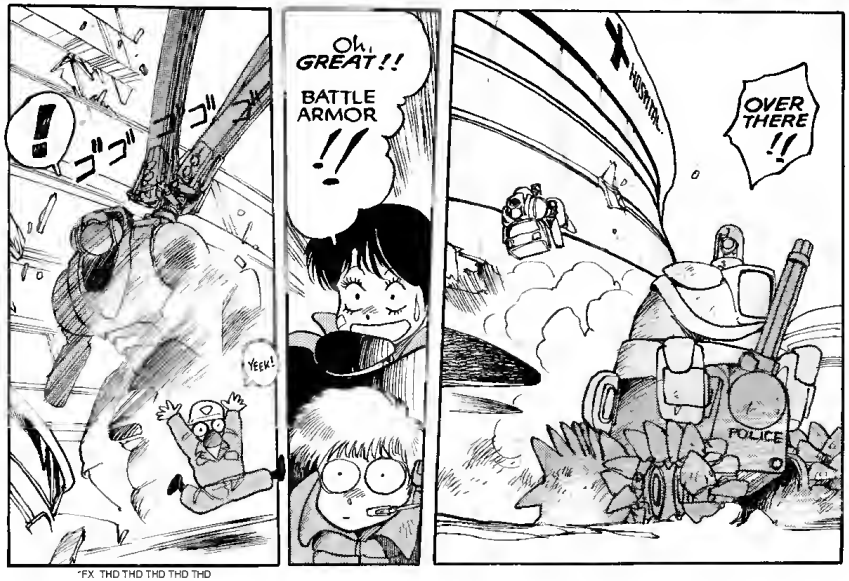
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP



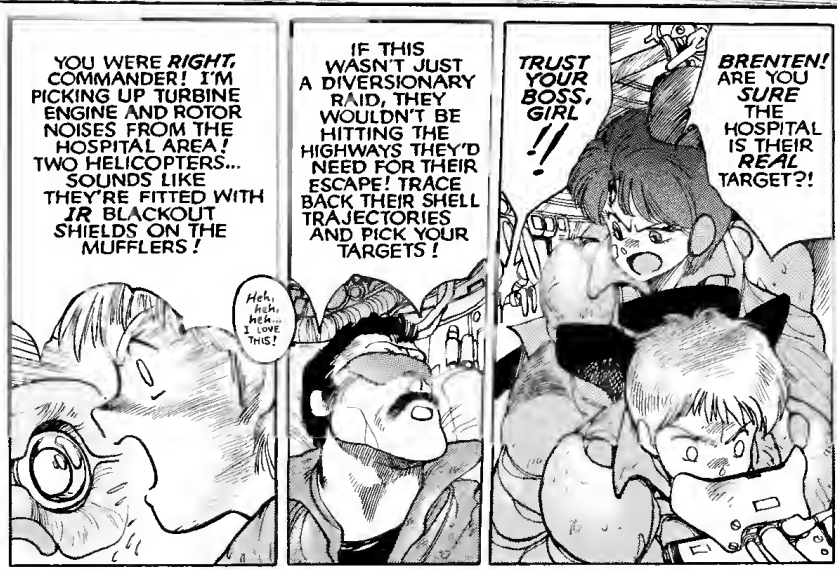
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP





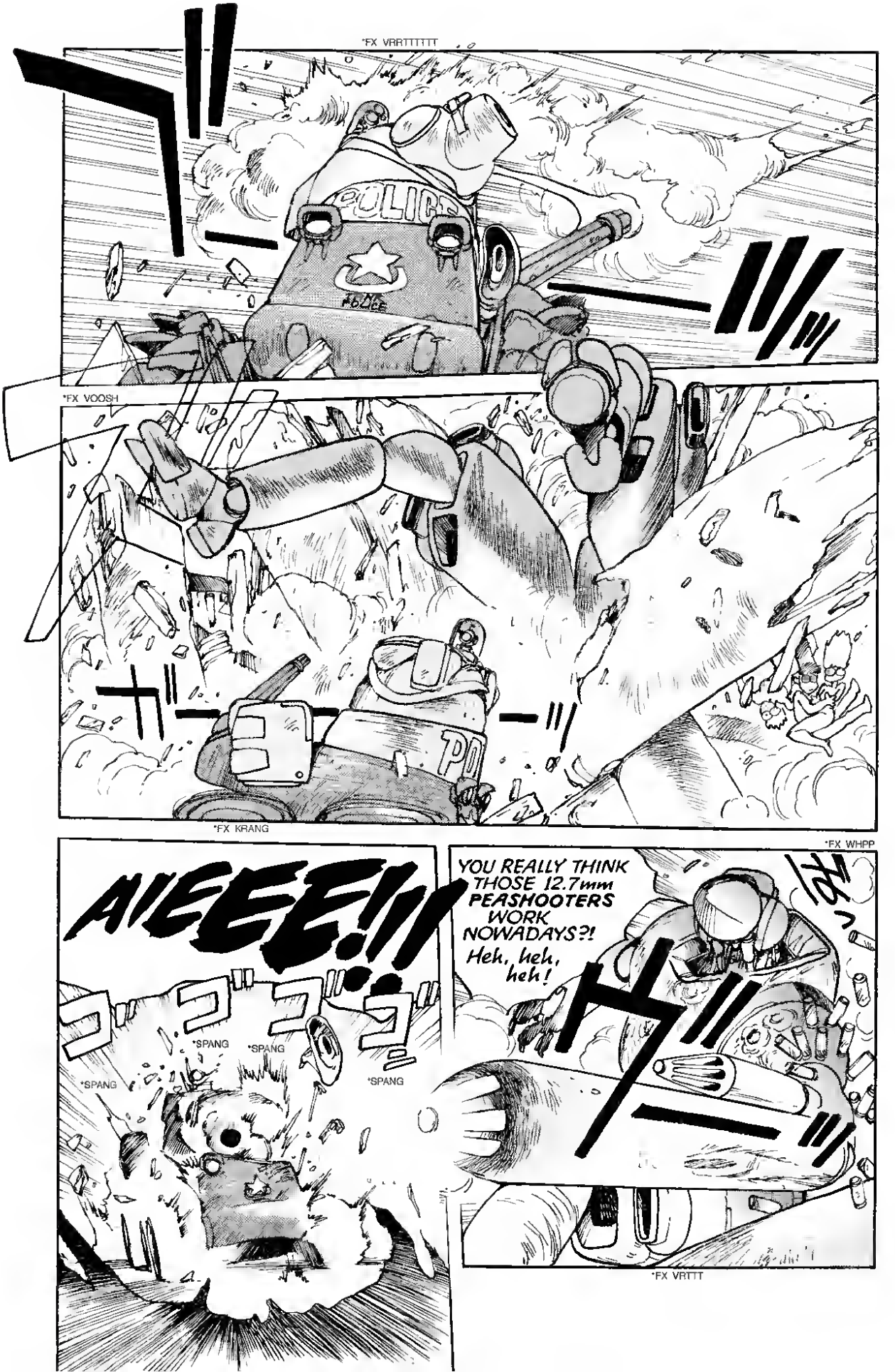


*FX THD THD THD THD THD

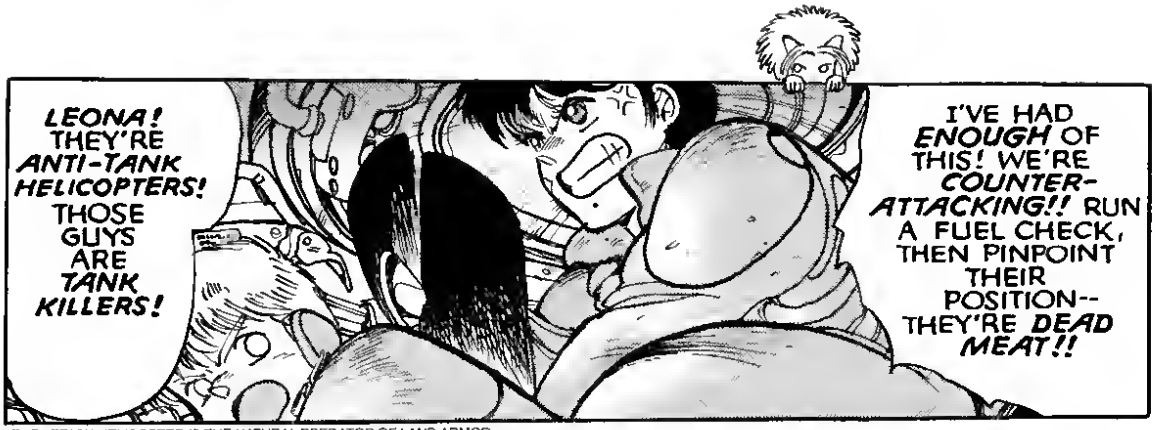

YOU WERE RIGHT, COMMANDER! I'M PICKING UP TURBINE ENGINE AND ROTOR NOISES FROM THE HOSPITAL AREA! TWO HELICOPTERS... SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE FITTED WITH IR BLACKOUT SHIELDS ON THE MUFFLERS!
Heh, heh, heh... I LOVE THIS!
IF THIS WASN'T JUST A DIVERSIONARY RAID, THEY WOULDN'T BE HITTING THE HIGHWAYS THEY'D NEED FOR THEIR ESCAPE! TRACE BACK THEIR SHELL TRAJECTORIES AND PICK YOUR TARGETS!
TRUST YOUR BOSS, GIRL!!
BRENTEN! ARE YOU SURE THE HOSPITAL IS THEIR REAL TARGET?!

*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

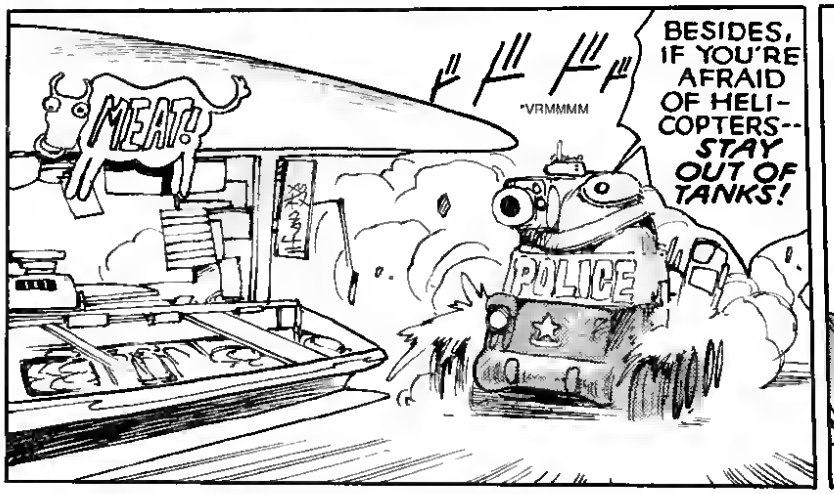
ゴトン ゴトン
ゴトン ゴトン
COME OUT TO PLAY, huh, YOU AND YOUR STUPID TOY TANKS!
DAMN IT ALL!!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!! HA HA HA! COMBAT ARMOR!! THIS IS JUST WONDERFUL! HA HA hee hee ...
LEONA!! LOAD AN ANTI-ARMOR MULTIPLE WARHEAD HEAT ROUND!!
!
POLICE


*FX VRRTTTTTT
POLICE
*FX VOOSH
*FX KRANG
AIEEE!!!
*SPANG
*SPANG
*SPANG
*SPANG
YOU REALLY THINK THOSE 12.7mm PEASHOOTERS WORK NOWADAYS?!
Heh, heh, heh!
*FX WHPP
*FX VRTTT

*SPANG SPANG SPANG SPANG
*FX VRMM
*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP
*FX KSHAK
WHEW! 30mm VULCANS! I THOUGHT POOR BONAPARTE WAS FINISHED!
HE WHO LAUGHS LAST
*BMM
Oh, NO YOU DON'T !!
*FX GAHAHA HAHA NO HA
*FX VRTTT
AIEEE!!!
*SPANG SPANG

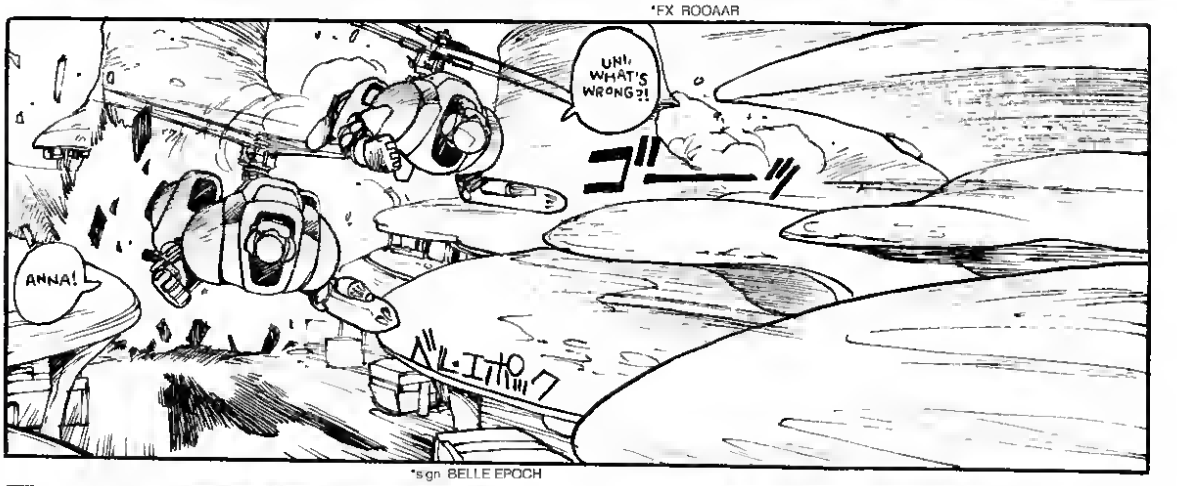

LEONA! THEY'RE ANTI-TANK HELICOPTERS! THOSE GUYS ARE TANK KILLERS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! WE'RE COUNTER-ATTACKING!! RUN A FUEL CHECK, THEN PINPOINT THEIR POSITION-- THEY'RE DEAD MEAT!!

*THE ATTACK HELICOPTER IS THE NATURAL PREDATOR OF LAND ARMOR

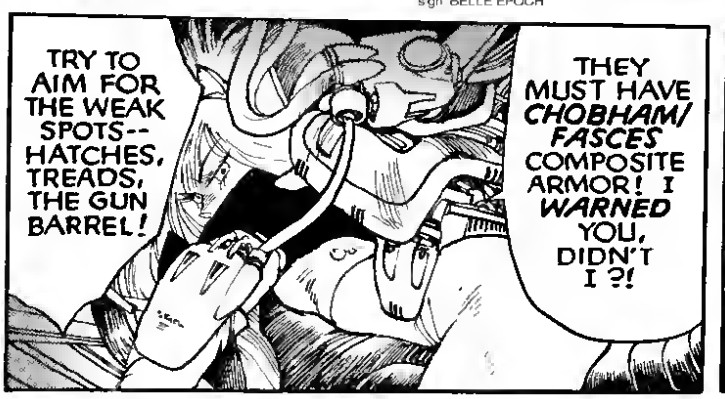


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT-- IF THEY GO FOR ALTITUDE, THEY'LL MAKE BETTER TARGETS. IF THEY FLY NAP OF THE EARTH, THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SPOT US.

*FX ROOAAR



*sign BELLE EPOCH


TRY TO AIM FOR THE WEAK SPOTS-- HATCHES, TREADS, THE GUN BARREL!
THEY MUST HAVE CHOBHAM/ FASCES COMPOSITE ARMOR! I WARNED YOU, DIDN'T I ?!

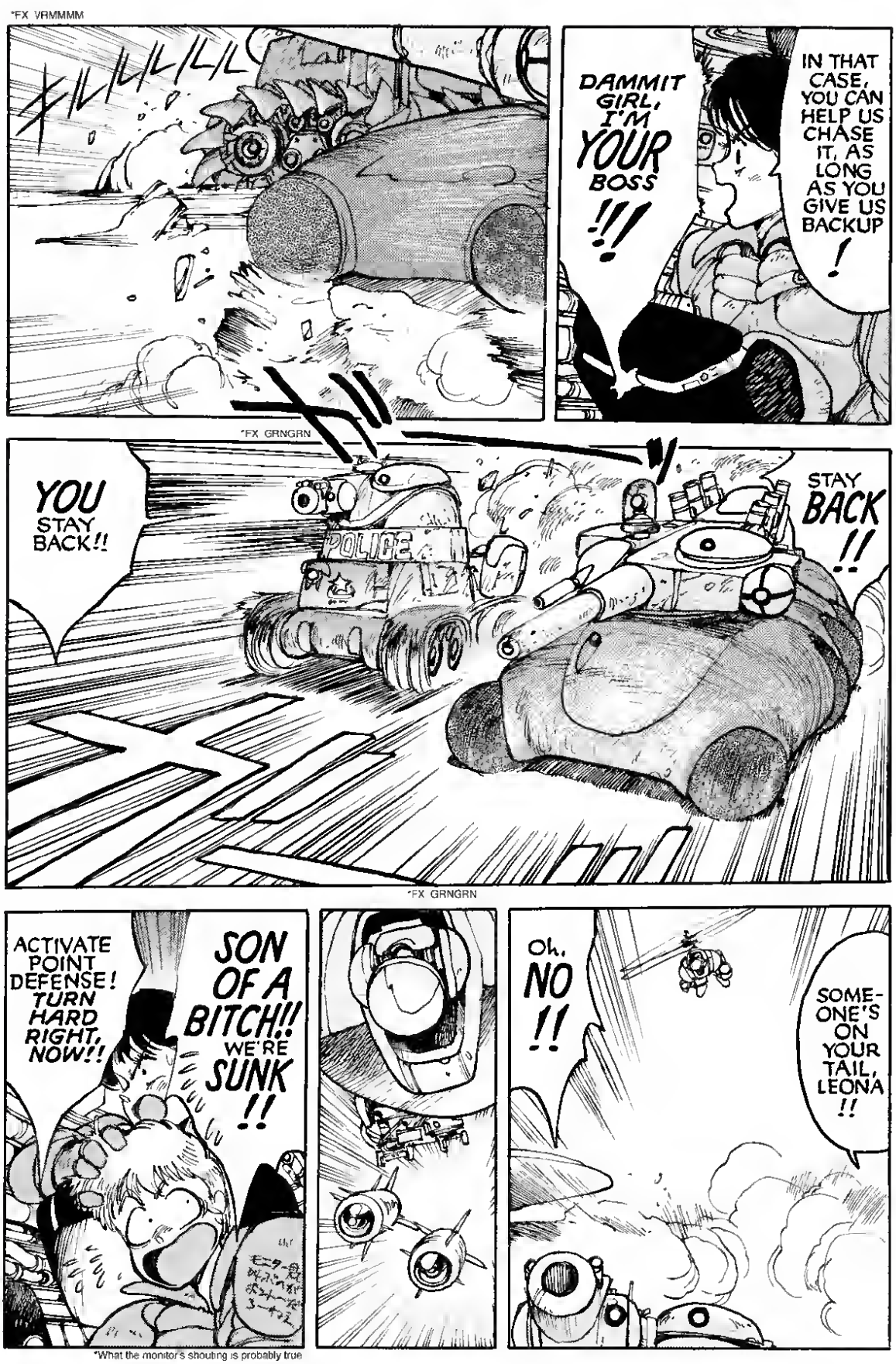
*FX BOOM BOOM BOOM

*shirt MULTI DOKODOKO

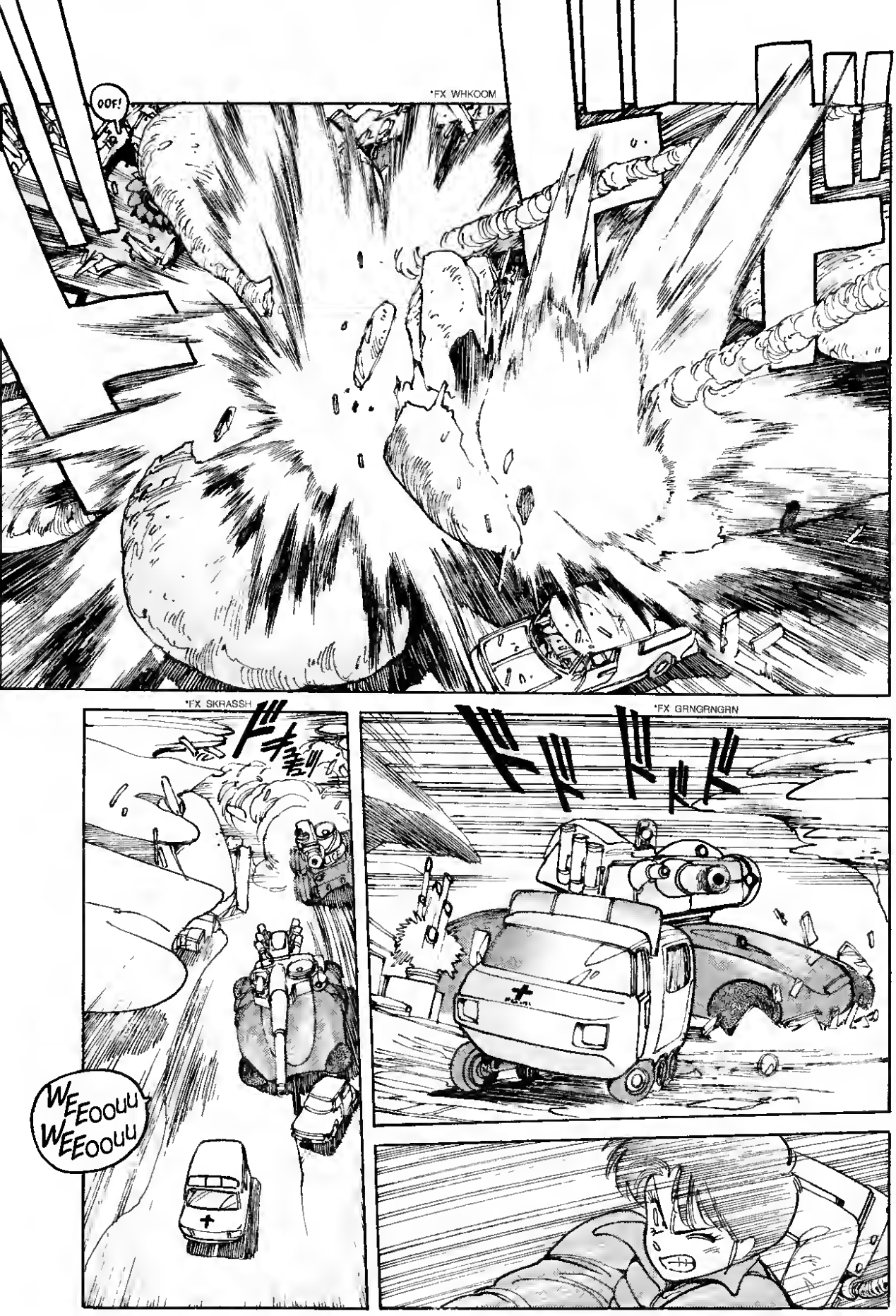
YEEK
*SPRAKK
OUCH!
*FX VROOM
*FX WREEEE
*FX BKOOM BKOOM
*FX SKREEE

*FX GRN GRN GRN
THEY'RE PROBABLY ALL SCRAP BY NOW! BUAKU'S GOT US TOTALLY OUTCLASSED IN EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS!
ANY COMMUNI-CATIONS FROM THE REGULAR PATROL CARS?
SHUT UP AND FOLLOW HER!
BRENTEN WANTS US TO HELP HIM OUT--THE HOSPITAL'S IN BAD SHAPE!
POLICE
I MEAN, YOU CAN'T EVEN STEAL STUFF LIKE THAT! AND EVEN IF YOU COULD, NO CROOK WOULD USE THEM-- THEY'D JUST SELL THEM TO SOME ARMS MERCHANT.
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT... WHERE DO THEY GET THOSE INCREDIBLE WEAPONS?
HE'S TOO DAMN SMART NOT TO KNOW THAT...
SO JUST WHAT IS BUAKU UP TO? CAN'T BE AFTER MONEY... AND IF THEY MAKE TOO MUCH TROUBLE, SOMEONE'LL CALL OUT THE ARMY AND BYE-BYE BUAKU...
*FX GRN GRN GRN

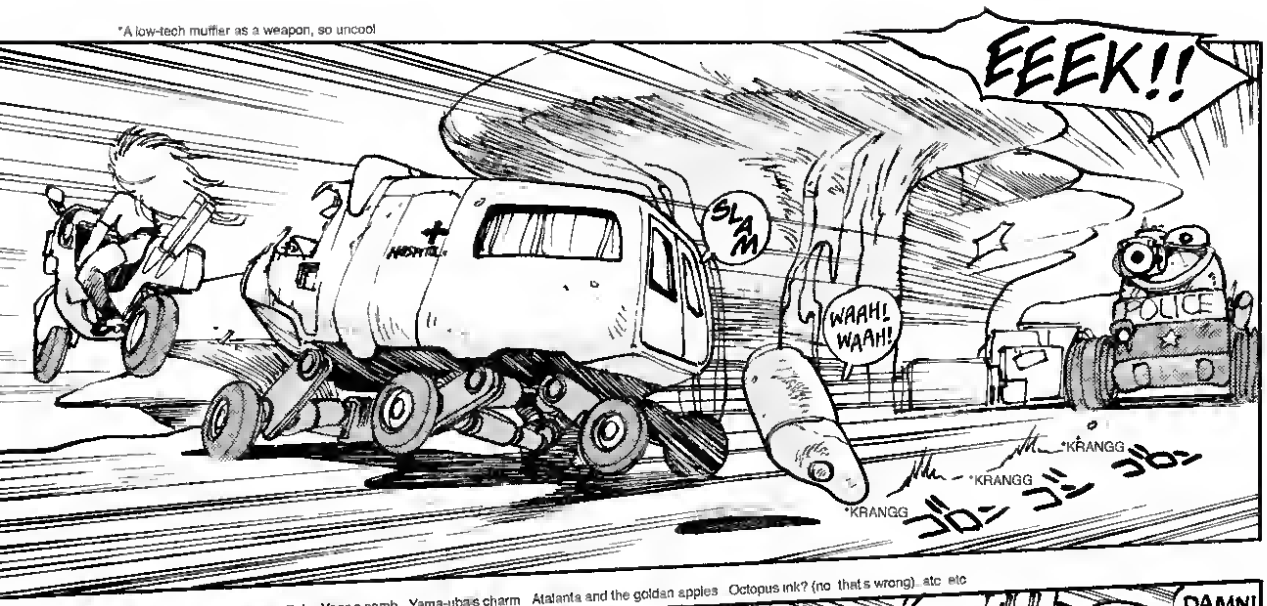
*FX SKREEECH
FX KANG
?!
GET OFF THE ROAD, YOU IDIOTS! THE AMBULANCE IS GETTING AWAY!!
THEY'RE ESCAPING! WHERE THE HELL WERE YOU ?!
BRENTEN !!

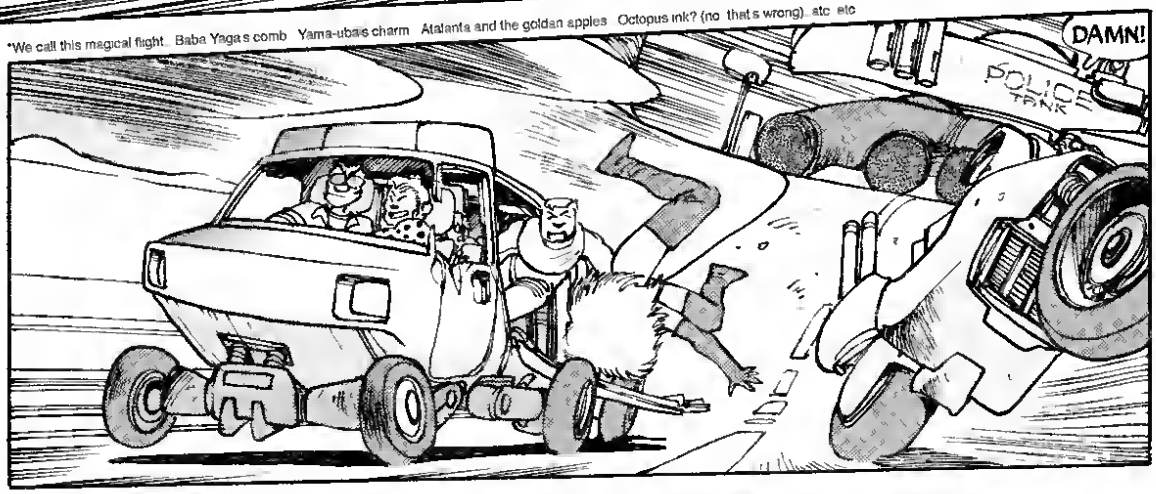

*FX VRMMMM
DAMMIT GIRL, I'M YOUR BOSS !!
IN THAT CASE, YOU CAN HELP US CHASE IT, AS LONG AS YOU GIVE US BACKUP !
*FX GRNGRN
YOU STAY BACK!!
POLICE
STAY BACK !!
*FX GRNGRN
ACTIVATE POINT DEFENSE! TURN HARD RIGHT, NOW!!
SON OF A BITCH!! WE'RE SUNK !!
Oh, NO !!
SOME-ONE'S ON YOUR TAIL, LEONA !!

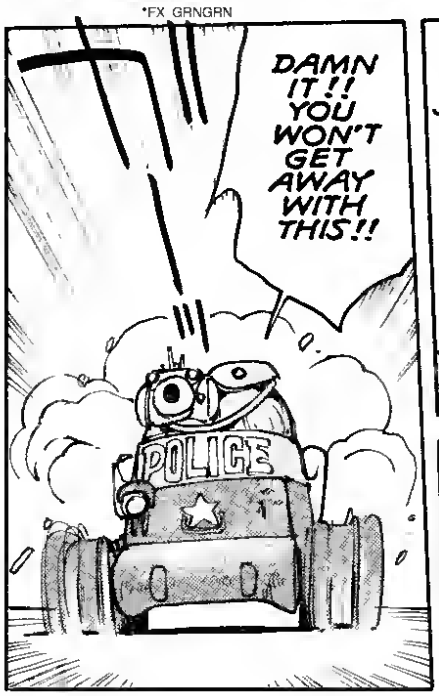
*What the monitor's shouting is probably true

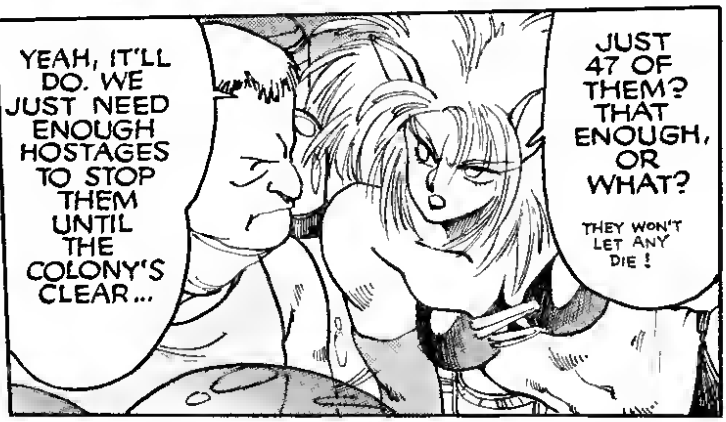

OOF!
*FX WHKOOM
*FX SKRASSH
*FX GRNGRNGRN
WEEOOUU
WEEOOUU

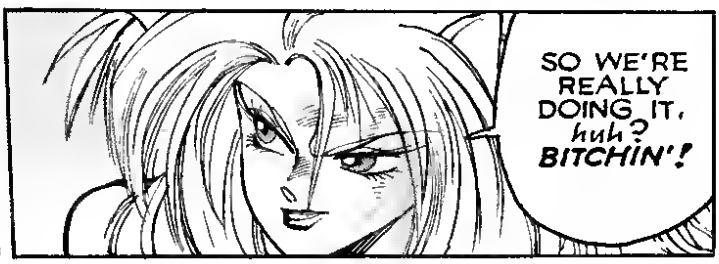
*BKOOM
JUST TRY IT, COPPER!! THE BABIES DIE TOO!
*FX RRR
POLICE
HALT OR WE'LL SHOOT!
*SKREEEE
*FX GRNGRN
POLICE
*FX KCHAK
SPAK
YEEK!
Heh!
HERE, CATCH!!
HEY, CHECK THESE OUT! EVERY ONE PACKED WITH A BABY!
*FX KRANGG

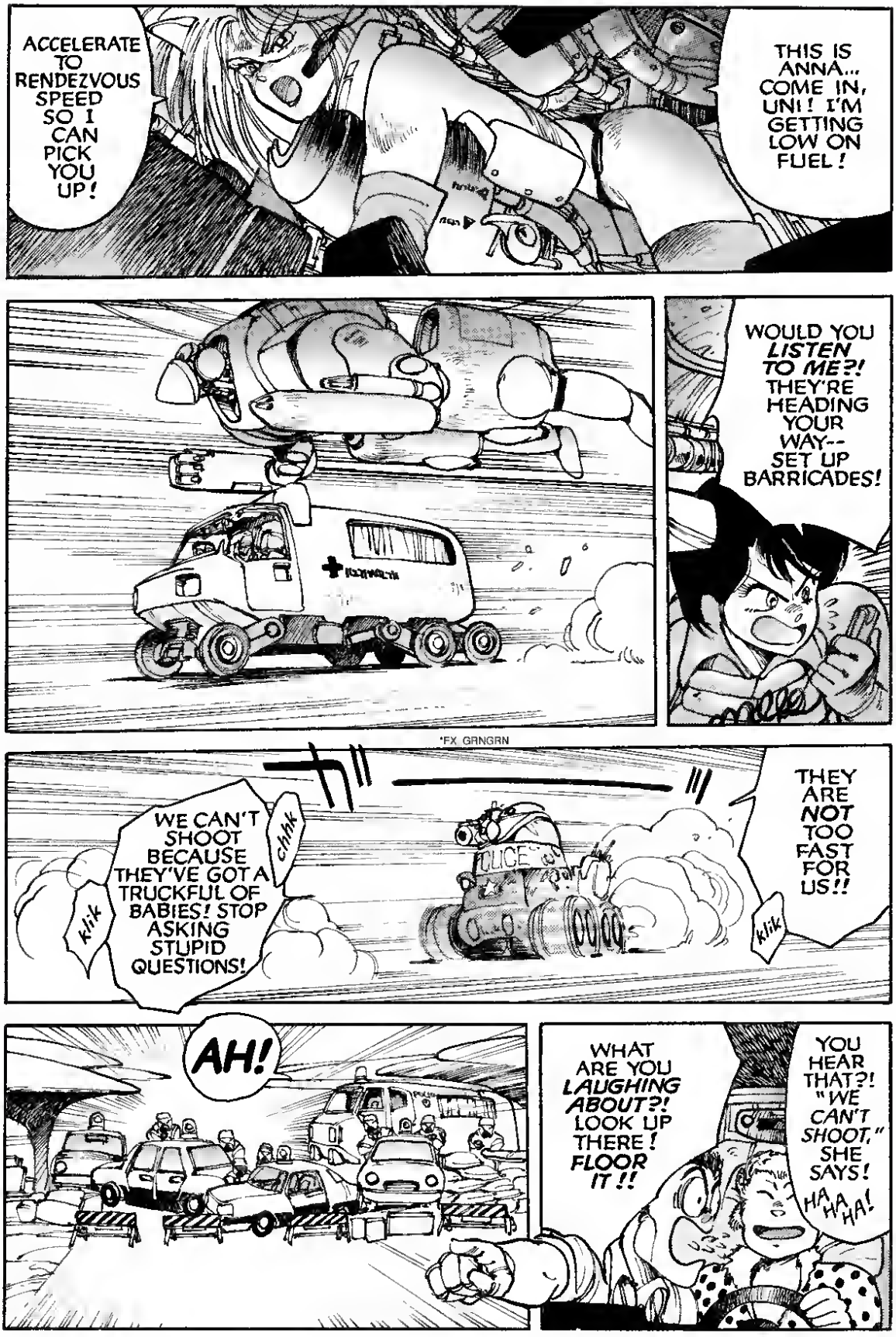

*A low-tech muffler as a weapon, so uncool
EEEK!!
HOSPITAL
SLAM
WAAH! WAAH!
POLICE
*KRANGG
*KRANGG
*KRANGG


*We call this magical flight. Baba Yaga's comb. Yama-uba's charm. Atalanta and the goldan apples. Octopus ink? (no, that's wrong). etc. etc
DAMN!
POLICE TANK

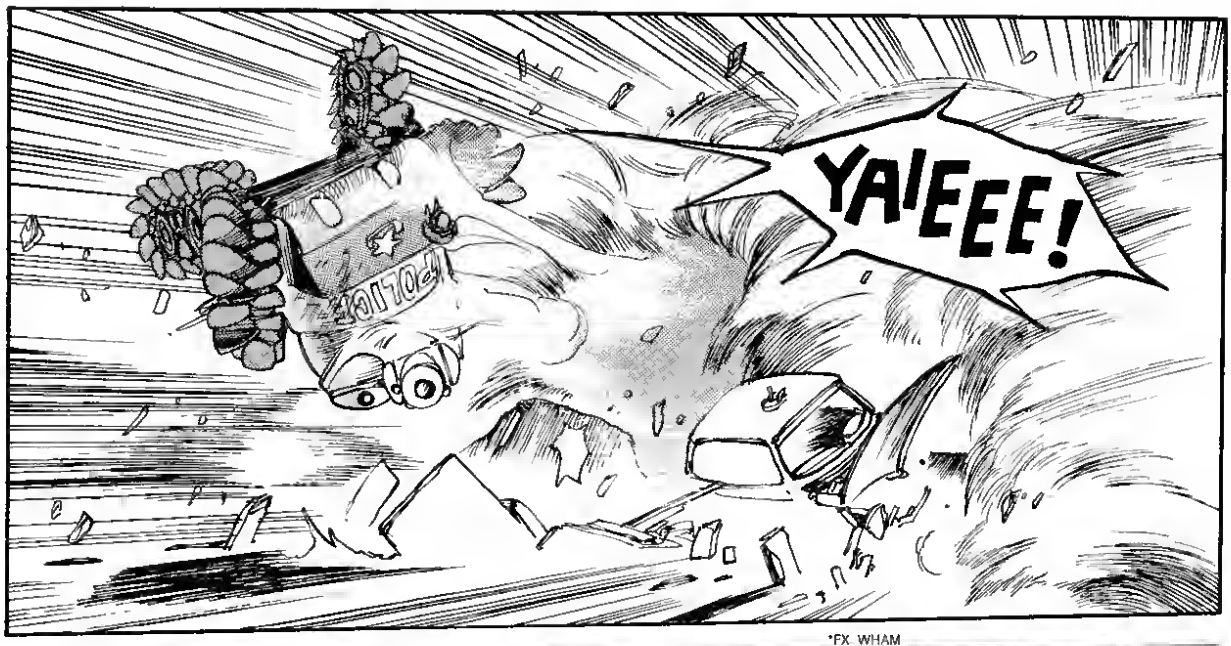

*FX: GRNGRN
DAMN IT!! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
POLICE


YEAH, IT'LL DO. WE JUST NEED ENOUGH HOSTAGES TO STOP THEM UNTIL THE COLONY'S CLEAR...
JUST 47 OF THEM? THAT ENOUGH, OR WHAT?
THEY WON'T LET ANY DIE!

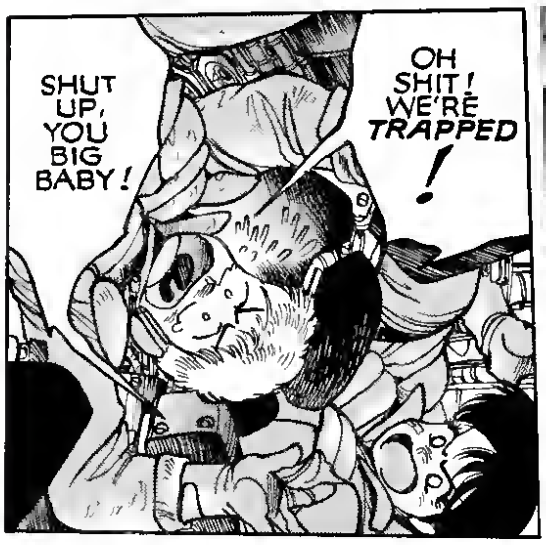

SO WE'RE REALLY DOING IT, huh? BITCHIN'!

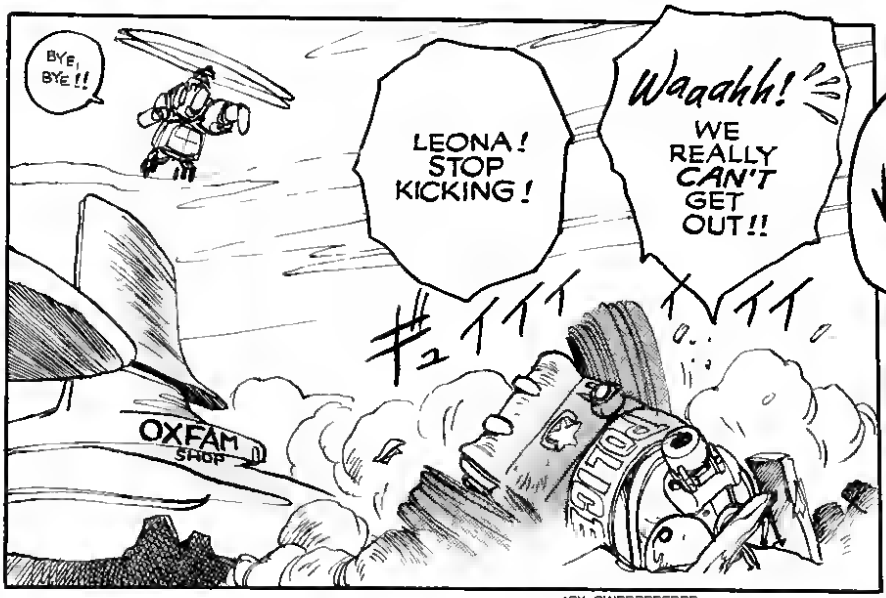

ACCELERATE TO RENDEZVOUS SPEED SO I CAN PICK YOU UP!
THIS IS ANNA... COME IN, UNI! I'M GETTING LOW ON FUEL!
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO ME?! THEY'RE HEADING YOUR WAY-- SET UP BARRICADES!
*FX GRNGRN
WE CAN'T SHOOT BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT A TRUCKFUL OF BABIES! STOP ASKING STUPID QUESTIONS!
chhk
klik
POLICE
THEY ARE NOT TOO FAST FOR US!!
klik
AH!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?! LOOK UP THERE! FLOOR IT!!
YOU HEAR THAT?! "WE CAN'T SHOOT," SHE SAYS!
HA HA HA!

*FX WRAMM BKOOM
AIEEE!
VWOOSH
*FX BOOM
WHOULF!
*FX SKRASH
EEK!
POLICE
SILLY BOYS! WHY'D THEY EVEN BOTHER WITH A BARRICADE? MUST LIKE GETTING WASTED, eh?



*FX WHAM





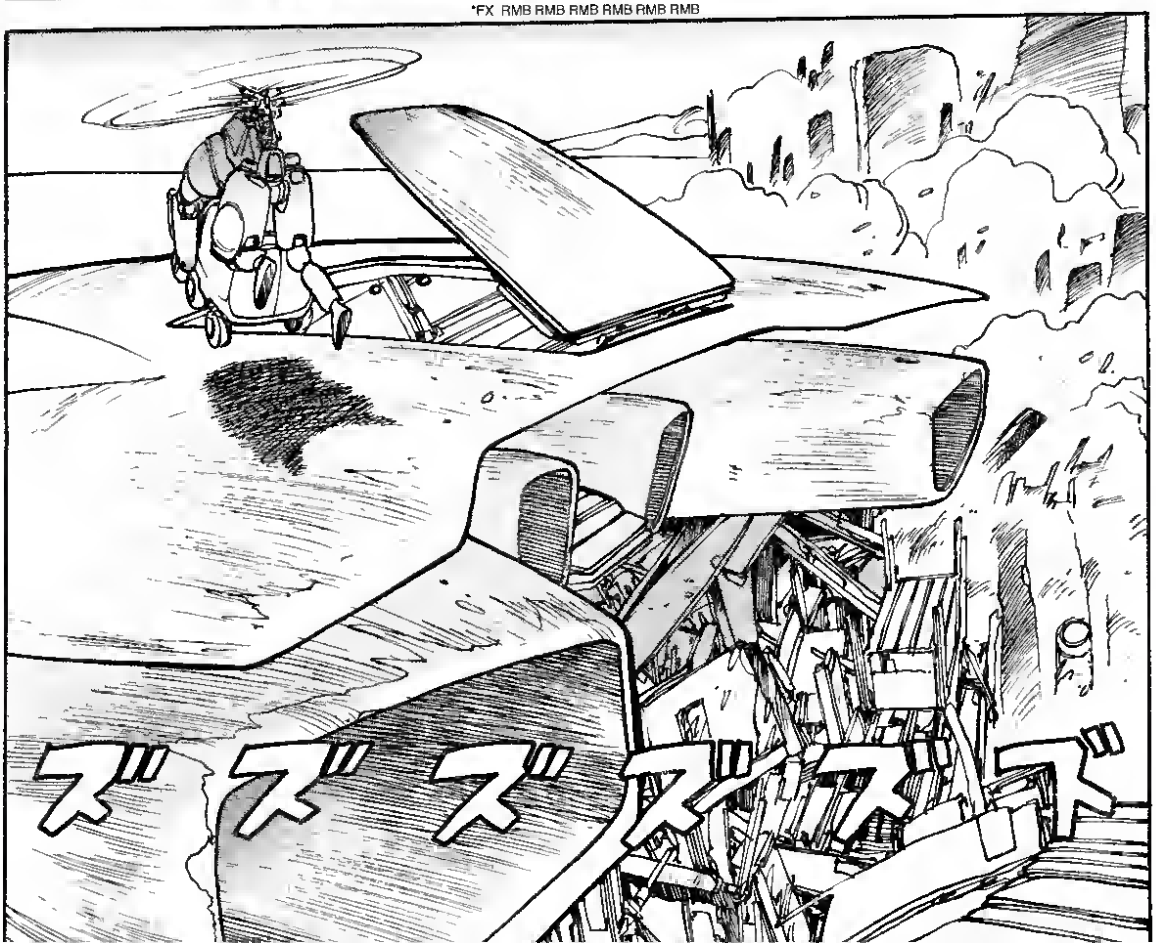
*FX GWEEEEEEEEE

*FX BRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAK RIINNGG
SHORE PATROL REPORTS A BUAKU SHIP IN THE HARBOR !
KLIK
KLIK
CHIEF!
MY ULCER ..
BABIES? THEY GOT BABIES FROM THE HOSPITAL ?!
*FX WHKOOM
UPSY DAISY!
POLICE
*FX FWMP
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE TANK JOCKEYS UP TO?!
*FX GRNGRNGRN
POLICE
WHOA!
ALRIGHT! LET'S HEAD FOR THE HARBOR!

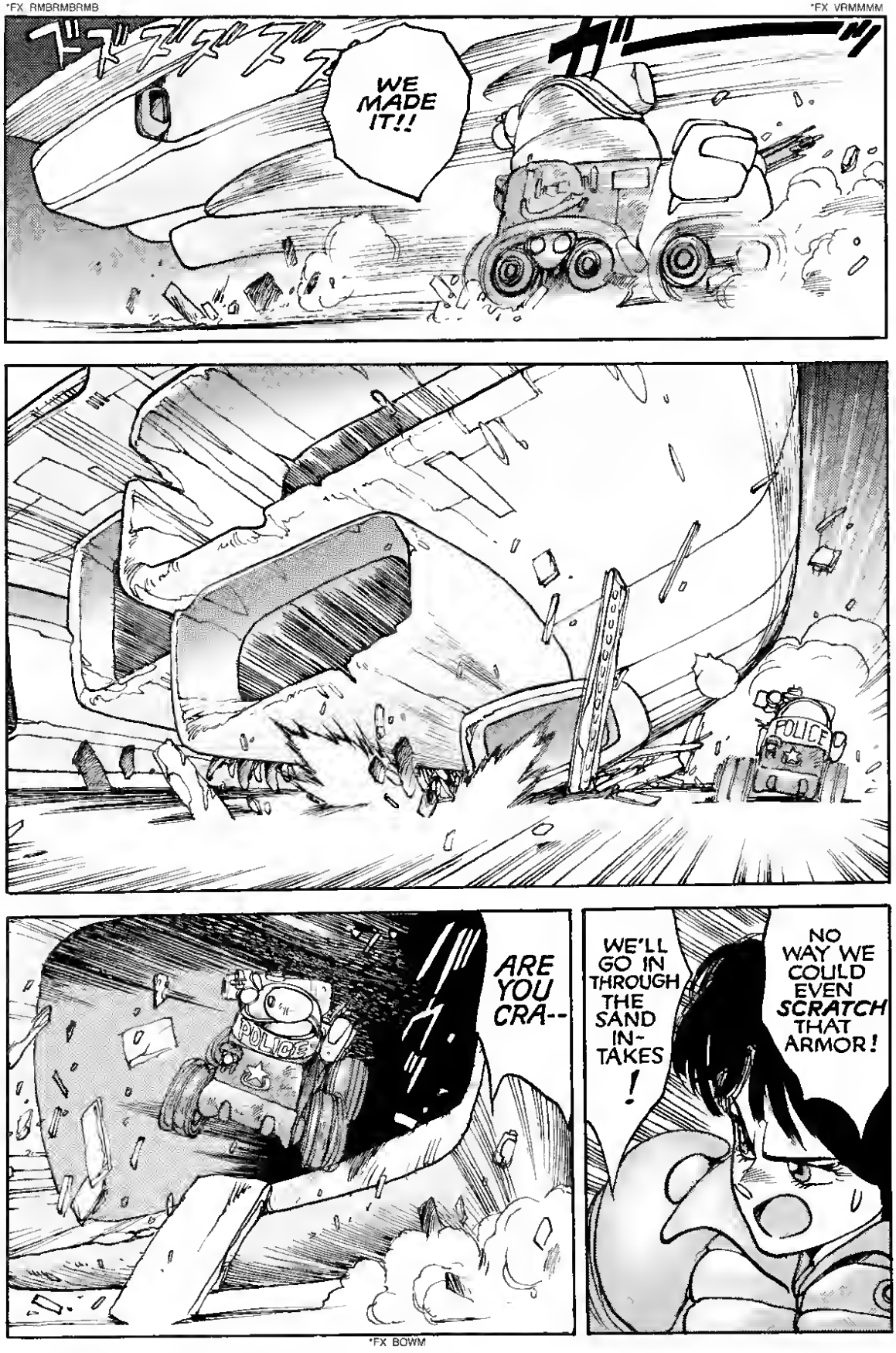
I'VE ALREADY CALLED THEM, TWICE. THEY SAY THEY'VE GOT ORDERS NOT TO INTERFERE.
I CAN CONTACT THE ARMY FOR YOU...!
THIS IS GETTING TOO BIG FOR US, CHIEF! WE'VE GOT TO CALL IN HELP!
IT GETS WORSE, CHIEF-- HE ALSO WANTS US TO HAND OVER THE SPACE COLONY THEY'VE JUST FINISHED BUILDING... THE EMBRYO.
BUAKU'S DEMANDING WHAT?! HE WANTS TO TRADE THE BABIES FOR A SPACE SHUTTLE?!
POLICE

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, BUAKU... NEVER!!
heh heh heh
?
IT'S ALL BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE, NOW...
OH MY GOSH! IS THAT REAL?

*FX RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB



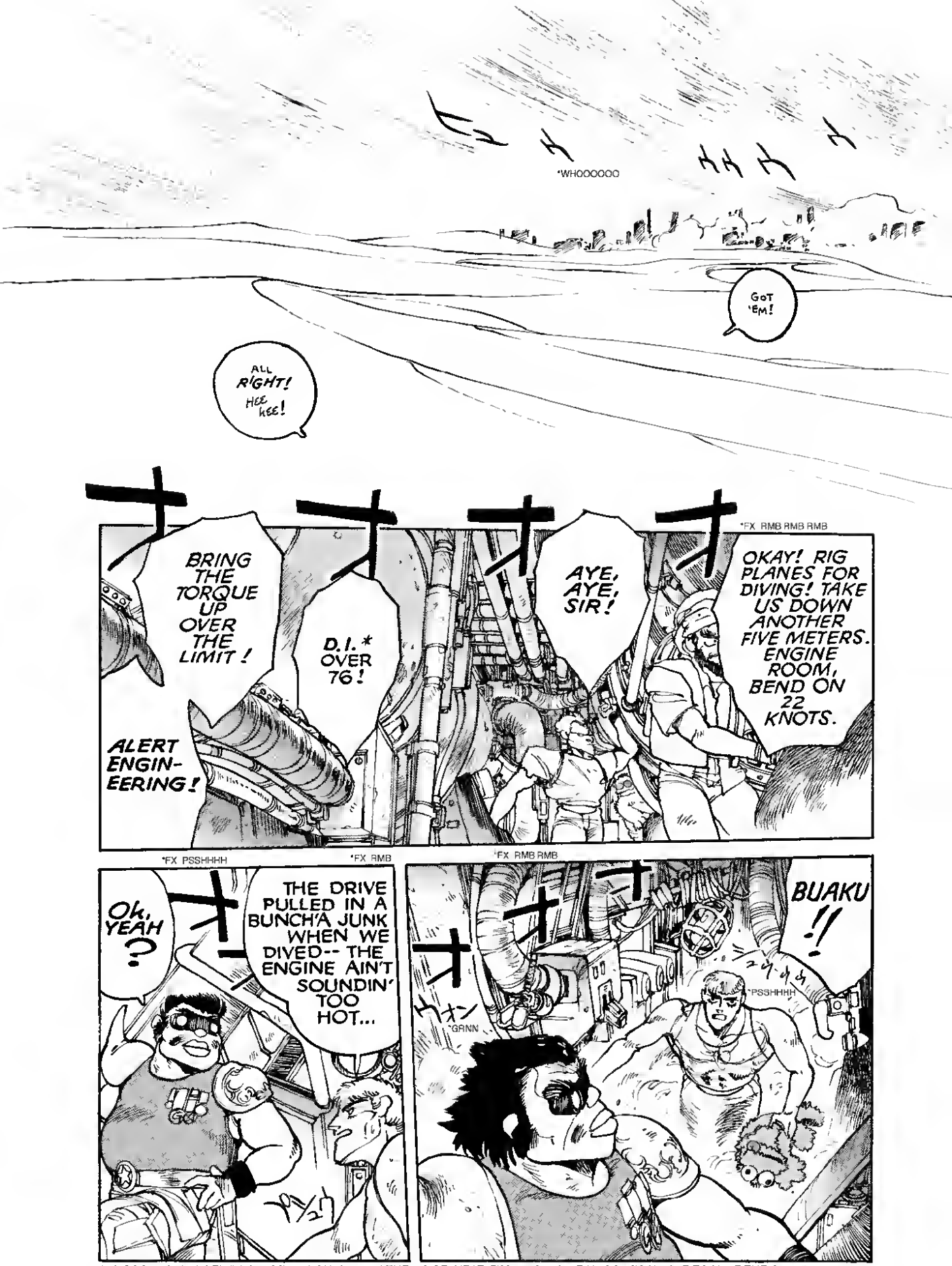
*FX: VRMM VRMM
*FX: RMB RMB
WE'RE OUTTA HERE !!
ALL RIGHT!! ENGINES, FULL POWER! REVERSE COURSE!!
*FX: KRASSHOOM


*FX RMBRMBRMB
*FX VRMMMM
WE MADE IT!!
POLICE
ARE YOU CRA--
POLICE
*FX BOWM
WE'LL GO IN THROUGH THE SAND IN-TAKES!
NO WAY WE COULD EVEN SCRATCH THAT ARMOR!

-ZZZYYYY-!!
*FX VREEEEE
YEOW!!
HELP!!
YEOW!!
POLICE
*FX KRANGG KANGG KANGG
*FX VREEE

*FX: RMBRMBRMBRMB
SKREE
!
*BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM BKOOM
*FX: POF POF POF POF
RMBRMBRMB
WE CAN'T GO ANY FASTER AT THIS DEPTH-- THE SAND PRESSURE WOULD CRUSH THE HULL. AND IF WE RUN SHALLOW, THEY STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF HITTING US!
STEP ON IT!!

YOU GOT IT!
LAY ONE BARRAGE RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM, AND ONE ON TOP!
READY MISSILES! AS SOON AS YOU FIRE, TAKE US DOWN AND CHANGE COURSE!
TAKE US UP TO COMBAT DEPTH!
*FX ZHUZHU
*FX RMBRMBRMB
PSH PSH PSH PSH
*FX WHOOSH WHOOSH
*FX BKOOM
P.V.O
A'EE!
*FX WRAMM WRAMM
*FX FWOOOOOSSHHH


*WHOOOOOO
GOT 'EM!
ALL RIGHT! HEE HEE!
BRING THE TORQUE UP OVER THE LIMIT!
D.I.* OVER 76!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
*FX RMB RMB RMB
OKAY! RIG PLANES FOR DIVING! TAKE US DOWN ANOTHER FIVE METERS. ENGINE ROOM, BEND ON 22 KNOTS.
ALERT ENGIN-EERING!
*FX PSSHHHH
*FX RMB
OH, YEAH?
THE DRIVE PULLED IN A BUNCH'A JUNK WHEN WE DIVED-- THE ENGINE AIN'T SOUNDIN' TOO HOT...
*FX RMB RMB
BUAKU!!
*PSSHHHH
*GRNN

* "DISCOMFORT INDEX" A D.I. OF 75 WOULD MEAN THE NOISE, HEAT, ETC., WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO HALF THE CREW
A D.I. OF 80 WOULD BE BAD FOR EVERYBODY

WELL, Y'KNOW, THERE COULD BE ALL KINDS OF STUFF OUT THERE, ACTUALLY. OTHER PEOPLE, EVEN!
EXCEPT FOR STARS AN' NEBULAS AN' STUFF, IT'S JUST LIKE THE INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD! TOTALLY EMPTY!
*FX HAHAHAHA
あっはっはのは
GEE, ANNA, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'S LIKE IN OUTER SPACE, huh?
BY "STARS," ANNA MEANS PLANETS, ASTEROIDS, ETC. TALK ABOUT AND "EMPTY HEAD." !
*BOOM
*FX SSSHHHH
IT'S A VIRUS!!
PHWA
POLICE
WHAAT?!

*FX GRNGRNGRN
AIEEE!
GET AWAY!
POLICE
FX VRMMM GRNGRNGRN
POLICE
*FX GRNGRNGRN
WE'RE TRAPPED! TRAPPED LIKE RATS IN A KLEIN BOTTLE!
ACK!
POLICE
WHAT THE HELL?!
*FX SKNCH

WE'VE GOTTA TRY-- WE'RE PUBLIC SERVANTS, RIGHT ?!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! WHAT IF THEY DON'T GO FOR IT?!
WE'LL TAKE OVER THE FUEL CELLS! TELL THEM WE'LL TRADE THEIR LIVES FOR THE HOSTAGES!
POLICE
GRN GRN GRN
Whew!
BEEP
BEEP
INTRUDERS ...?
BUAKU! WE'VE GOT A HULL BREACH SIGNAL FROM C-DECK!
*FX OOOOOO
*FX OOOOOOOOOOOO
USE A FORK TO POKE HOLES IN THE BOTTOM OF THE CRUST. I'LL PERSONALLY STRANGLE YOU IF THE BOTTOMS RISE AND THEY OVER-FLOW!
TRIM THE EDGES, OKAY?
SOUNDS LIKE WE GOT A "VIRUS" ONBOARD. I'M WITH THE "VACCINE" SQUAD THIS WEEK, I GOTTA GO!
N-NO... MY CAKES'LL FALL!

*FX VRMMMM
YIKES!
FORGET IT--WE'LL NEED THOSE TO KEEP THE COPS BUSY UNTIL THE SHUTTLE'S OFF THE GROUND.
WE GOT NO CHOICE, BOSS! WE GOTTA SET THE AUTO-BUGS ON THEM!
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FAIL NOW--ANY IDEAS?
WHAT ARE THE "LEUKO-CYTES" DOING?
NOW I'M MAD!
THE TANK'S CUTTING THROUGH THE "VENA CAVA," MOVING TOWARDS THE "RIGHT ATRIUM." IF WE DON'T STOP IT, THE "BRAIN" IS NEXT!
HEAD THEM OFF AT THE PASS!
HEH HEH!
SHUT UP AND DO IT!
WHA-?! BOSS! YOU KNOW WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF YOU USE THAT INSIDE THE SHIP?!
GET ME THE HYPER-SHOCK GUN AND A POWER-PACK.

?!
KRAK
*GRNGRNGRN
POLICE
*FX HYAAAA!
*CHNK
*FX SPZK
UNGH!
*FX BKOOM
!
ANNA!!

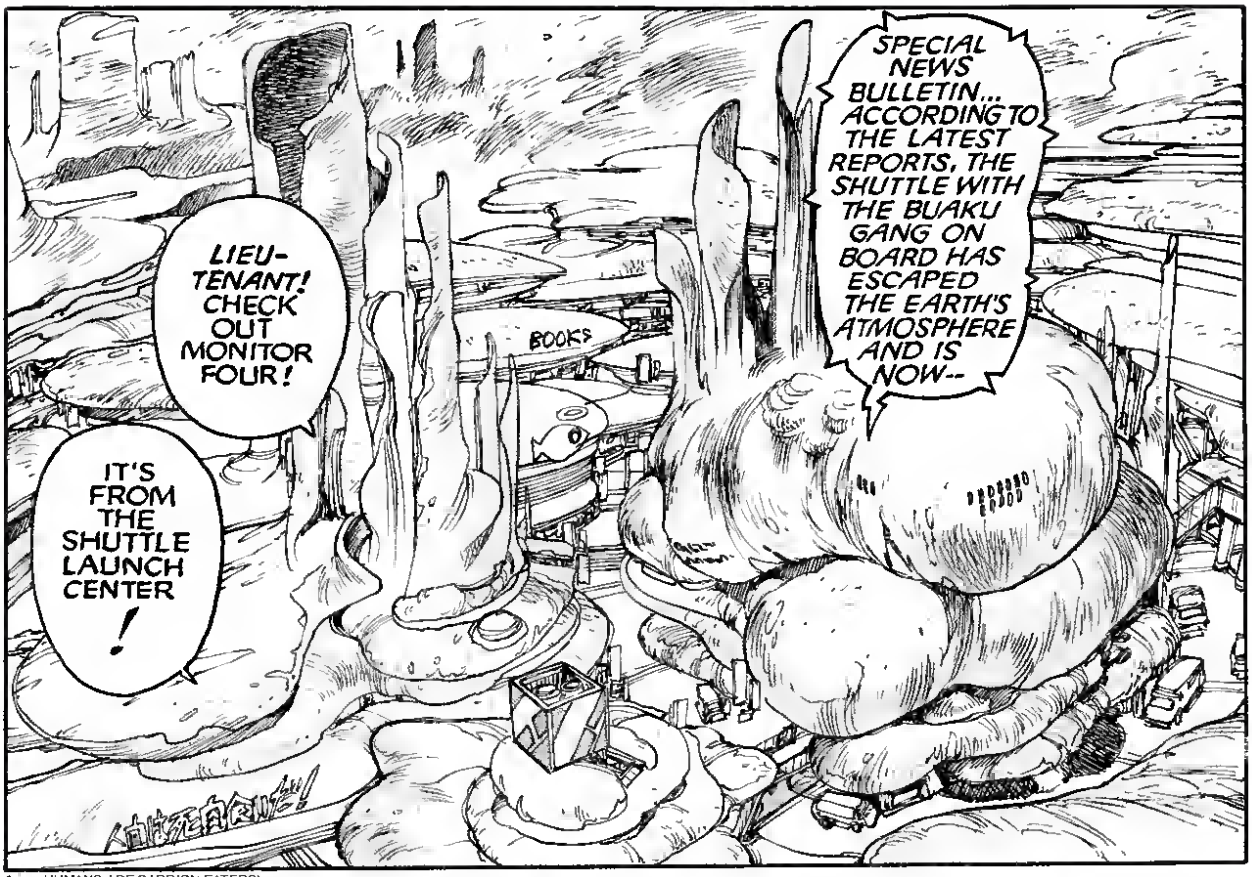
WHA-?!
*FX SSSHHHH
KRANG
SPZK
SPZK
カチャ
ミリミリミリ...
カチャ
*ZZKK KZZT
ミリミリ...
*GRRR
THAT'S ENOUGH, ANNA!
I'LL TEAR YOUR HEART OUT FOR THIS!!
HOW... HOW DARE YOU INSULT AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLI-GENCE!
YOU SAID WHAT?!!
M-MECHANICAL LOVE DOLLS?!
POLICE
KCHAK
JUST COOL IT, OKAY...?

*FX KLIK KLIK KLIK VREEEE VREEEE
BUAKU !!
MAKE ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR US, AND I'LL KILL YOU AND THE HOSTAGES. IF YOU GET OUT OF HERE LIKE A GOOD LITTLE GIRL, I'LL LET TEN OF THEM GO WITH YOU. HOW ABOUT IT, TANK LADY?
AL! FORGET IT! THAT PIPE JAMMED OUR MAIN GUN!
POLICE
WELL? YES OR NO?
B-BUT BUAKU... THAT LITTLE BITCH CALLED ME A LOVE DOLL!
=Snff=
OH, NO WE WON'T! BAD GUYS ARE BAD GUYS! SUBMIT TO THE LAW AND REFLECT UPON YOUR EVIL WAYS!!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! WE'LL DEAL--
=gmph!=
POINT
STUPID MOVE, huh?
.....
.....
WE'RE NOT MURDERERS, YOU KNOW.
AW, COME ON... WE'LL FREE ALL THE HOSTAGES EVEN-TUALLY, ANY-WAY.
SCREW YOU, FAT BOY!! THE TANK POLICE DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS!

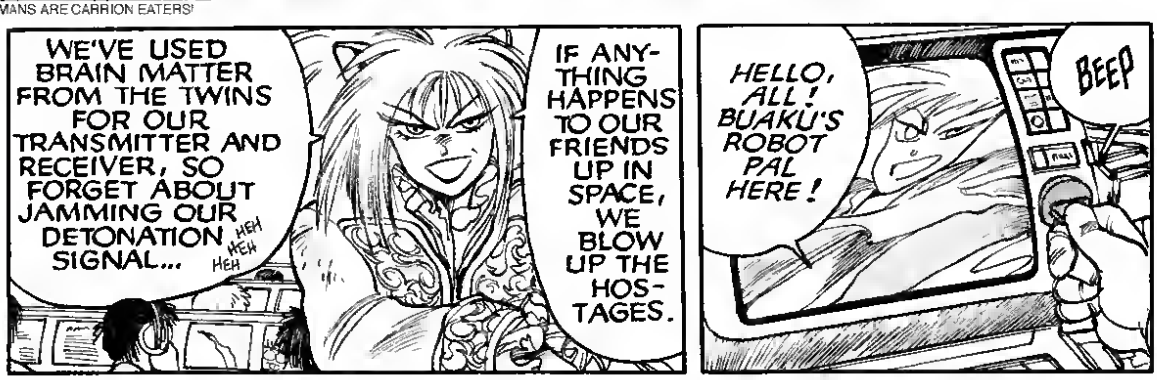
BUT IF THERE'S NO PLANET, THERE'S NO LIFE, eh?
THEY SAY A SINGLE LIFE IS WEIGHTIER THAN AN ENTIRE PLANET...
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR REASONS ARE!! CRIME MUST BE PUNISHED-- NO EXCEP-TIONS!!
HOW LOW CAN YOU GET, ANYWAY?! KIDNAP-PING BABIES !!
WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO JOIN YOU ALL IN MASS SUICIDE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THE EARTH SCREWED UP ON ITS BIOSPHERE MANAGEMENT... COULDN'T COPE WITH THOSE DAMN HUMANS.
SO GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR WAY!
WE'RE LEAVIN' THIS CHUNK OF DIRT, AND I DON'T FIGURE WE'RE GONNA BE BACK.

*FX: GCHUNK
WHA-?!
ガコン!
KOREJA DAITE PA
*FX: WHSSSH
ごろりん!
*on hatch: DON'T DO IT
UH-OH!
KCHAK
カルシャン
APFSDS
PUSH HERE
*FX: SKRANG
ニャキン!
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND LINE UP AGAINST THE WALL!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF YOUR BULLSHIT!

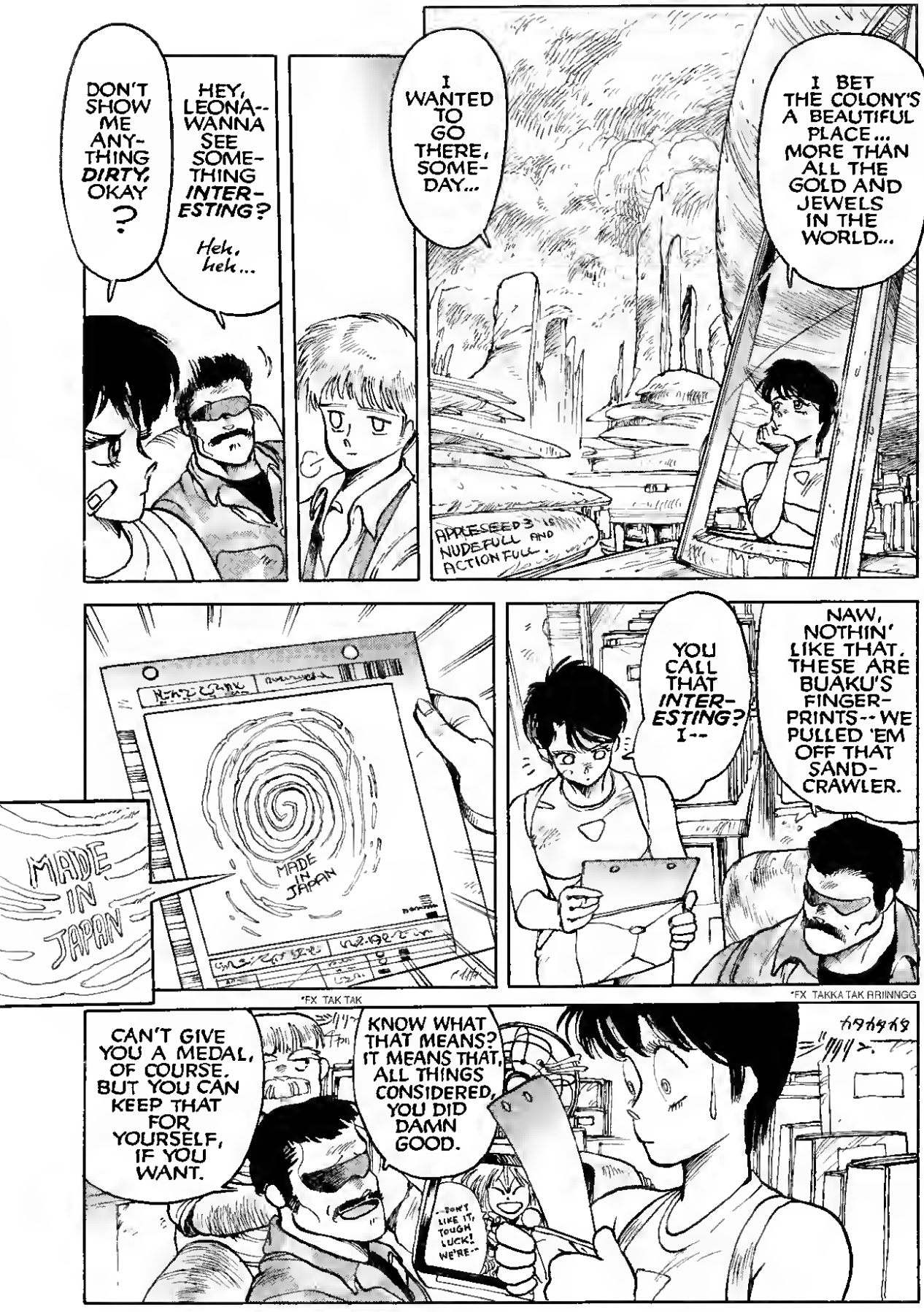
BUT...
WE'RE MAD.
I GOTTA GIVE YOU CREDIT, GIRL...
*FX SPZAKK
*FX ZZT ZZT ZZT ZZT
*FX KZZT SZZK
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? WE'VE GOT TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE REST OF THOSE JERKS, TOO!
HA HA HA HA...
....
THE DUMB DIE YOUNG.
YOU'LL NEVER GET A PROMOTION NOW...


SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN... ACCORDING TO THE LATEST REPORTS, THE SHUTTLE WITH THE BUAKU GANG ON BOARD HAS ESCAPED THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND IS NOW--
LIEU-TENANT! CHECK OUT MONITOR FOUR!
IT'S FROM THE SHUTTLE LAUNCH CENTER!
BOOKS

*sign 'HUMANS ARE CARRION EATERS!'


WE'VE USED BRAIN MATTER FROM THE TWINS FOR OUR TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER, SO FORGET ABOUT JAMMING OUR DETONATION SIGNAL... HEH HEH HEH
IF ANY-THING HAPPENS TO OUR FRIENDS UP IN SPACE, WE BLOW UP THE HOS-TAGES.
HELLO, ALL! BUAKU'S ROBOT PAL HERE!
BEEP

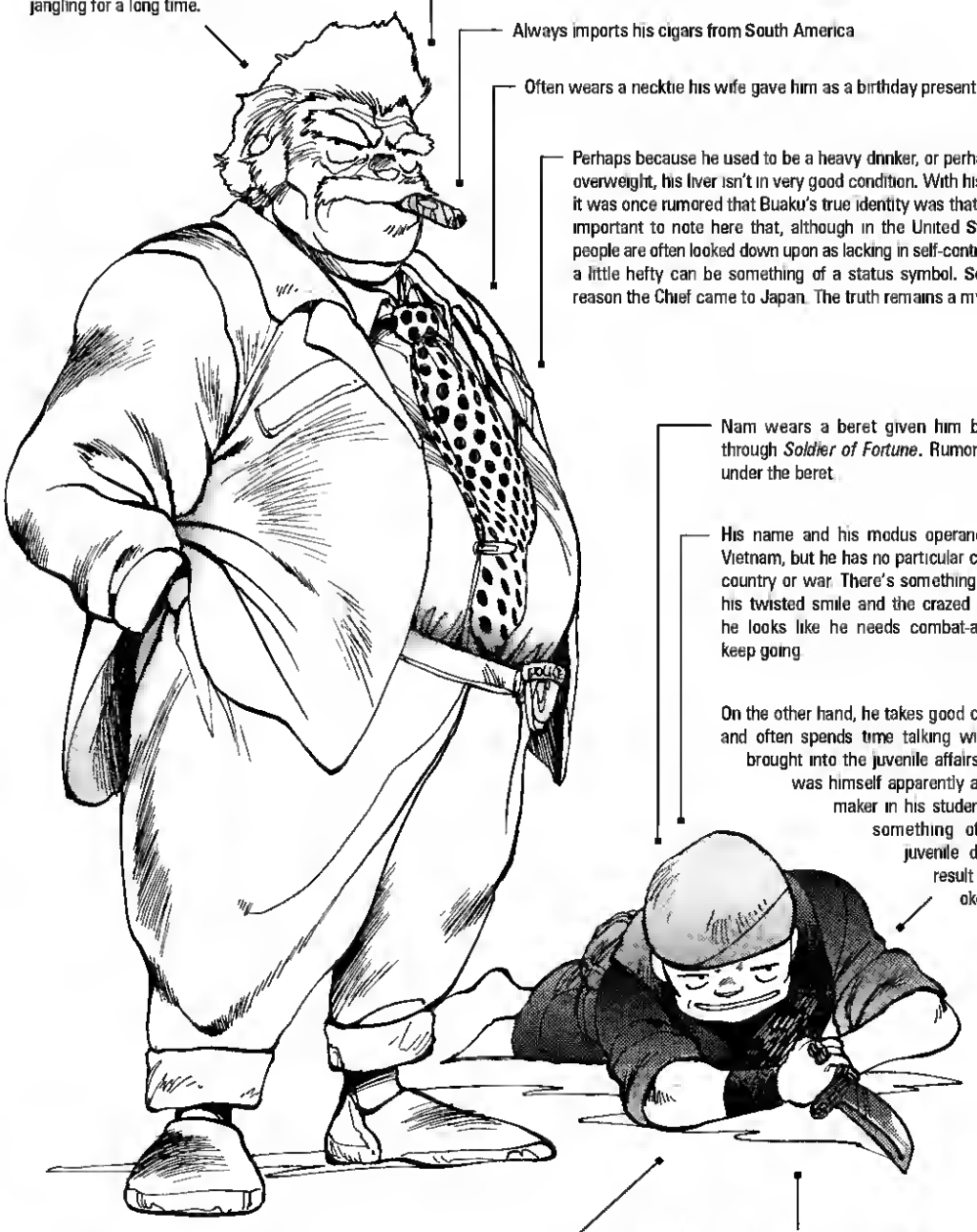
*FX BRIINNGG TAK TAK BRIINNGG
I CAN MOVE AROUND A LITTLE.
I NEVER GOT A CHANCE
YOU SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF BED...?
*FX BRIINNG TAKKA TAK TAK
BRENTEN... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
*FX TAK TAK
I CAN'T STAND IT!
THEY JUST PASSED THROUGH THE IONO-SPHERE.
*BRIINNGG
*TAKKA TAK
WE ALMOST HAD THEM, TOO...
THEY STOLE THE "EARTH" WE ALL THREW AWAY.


DON'T SHOW ME ANY-THING DIRTY, OKAY?
HEY, LEONA-- WANNA SEE SOME-THING INTER-ESTING?
Heh, heh...
I WANTED TO GO THERE, SOME-DAY...
I BET THE COLONY'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE... MORE THAN ALL THE GOLD AND JEWELS IN THE WORLD...
APPLESEED 3 IS NUDEFULL AND ACTIONFULL.
MADE IN JAPAN
MADE IN JAPAN
*FX TAK TAK
YOU CALL THAT INTER-ESTING? I--
NAW, NOTHIN' LIKE THAT. THESE ARE BUAKU'S FINGER-PRINTS-- WE PULLED 'EM OFF THAT SAND-CRAWLER.
*FX TAKKA TAK RRIINNGG
CAN'T GIVE YOU A MEDAL, OF COURSE. BUT YOU CAN KEEP THAT FOR YOURSELF, IF YOU WANT.
KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? IT MEANS THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, YOU DID DAMN GOOD.
--DON'T LIKE IT, TOUGH LUCK! WE'RE--

RELIGION, SCIENCE, HAWKS AND DOVES... IT WAS THAT KIND OF CASE.
MAYBE WORTH THINKIN' ABOUT, eh? HARD TO MAKE A DECISION, THOUGH.
MAYBE... MAYBE IT IS BETTER THIS WAY?
THEN AGAIN...
JEEZ ANYWAY! HOW COME US COPS ALWAYS GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK?!
I ASKED YOU NOT TO SHOW ME ANY-THING DIRTY!!
*FX TAK TAKKA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!!
LOOKS LIKE THAT ANTI-APARTHEID MARCH IN SUNRIDGE IS TURNING INTO A RIOT. YOU GUYS WANNA HELP US CLEAR 'EM OUT?
THEY'VE GOT SOME GUESTS FROM THE AMUZOKO...
*FX BRIINNGG CHING
AND CINDY, TOO?
HEY, IT'S LEA!
HEY! YOU BUTT-LAZY TANK JOCKS GONNA SIT AROUND ALL DAY WATCHING TV?!
*FX BRIINNGG TAK TAK TAK
DEATH TO THE BAD GUYS!!
KLIK
HELLO, POLICE HERE. TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS AND PROBLEM!
AHA! I KNEW IT! THAT IDIOT GOT HIS MONEY FROM A LOAN SHARK!
LOOK, ASSHOLE, WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN!
*FX TAKKA TAK
YOU TAKE OUR TAX MONEY AND--!
BUT NO BRASS KNUCKS, UNDERSTAND? NO MARKS FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS JERKS TO FIND!
*FX BRIINNGG
HEY, WE CAUGHT THAT SERIAL ARSONIST! ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO "INTERVIEW" HIM, BRING YOUR KID GLOVES!
KLIK

P.S.: 132 HOURS LATER, THE BUAKU-OCCUPIED SPACE COLONY EMBRYO DISAPPEARED FROM ITS LAGRANGE POINT (METHOD OF MOVEMENT AND NEW COURSE UNKNOWN). THE HOSTAGE BABIES WERE ALL FOUND SAFE AND SOUND IN BUS STATION LOCKERS. NO INVESTIGATION WAS EVER UNDERTAKEN TO DISCOVER THE PERSONAGES BEHIND THE INCIDENT, WHOEVER THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN. AND IN TIME, THE MEDIA STARTED CHASING OTHER STORIES. OF WHICH THERE WERE NO END...

The life of a substation chief has a lot of stress. At the departmental meetings at headquarters, he always feels a tad out of place—he's a Caucasian, and he also heads the ridiculously unruly Tank Police. His family's still intact.



His doctor says he should be hospitalized, but he's not convinced it's necessary yet. Still, his nerves aren't going to stop jangling for a long time.

His only child just passed the exam to become a public prosecutor, and his grandchild turned two and a half. His wife teaches a cooking class.

Always imports his cigars from South America.

Often wears a necktie his wife gave him as a birthday present.

Perhaps because he used to be a heavy drinker, or perhaps because he's overweight, his liver isn't in very good condition. With his protruding belly, it was once rumored that Buaku's true identity was that of the Chief. (It's important to note here that, although in the United States overweight people are often looked down upon as lacking in self-control, in Japan being a little hefty can be something of a status symbol. Some say it's one reason the Chief came to Japan. The truth remains a mystery.)

Nam wears a beret given him by a vet he met through *Soldier of Fortune*. Rumor has it he's bald under the beret.

His name and his modus operandi bring to mind Vietnam, but he has no particular connection to that country or war. There's something disturbing about his twisted smile and the crazed look in his eyes; he looks like he needs combat-amphetamines to keep going.

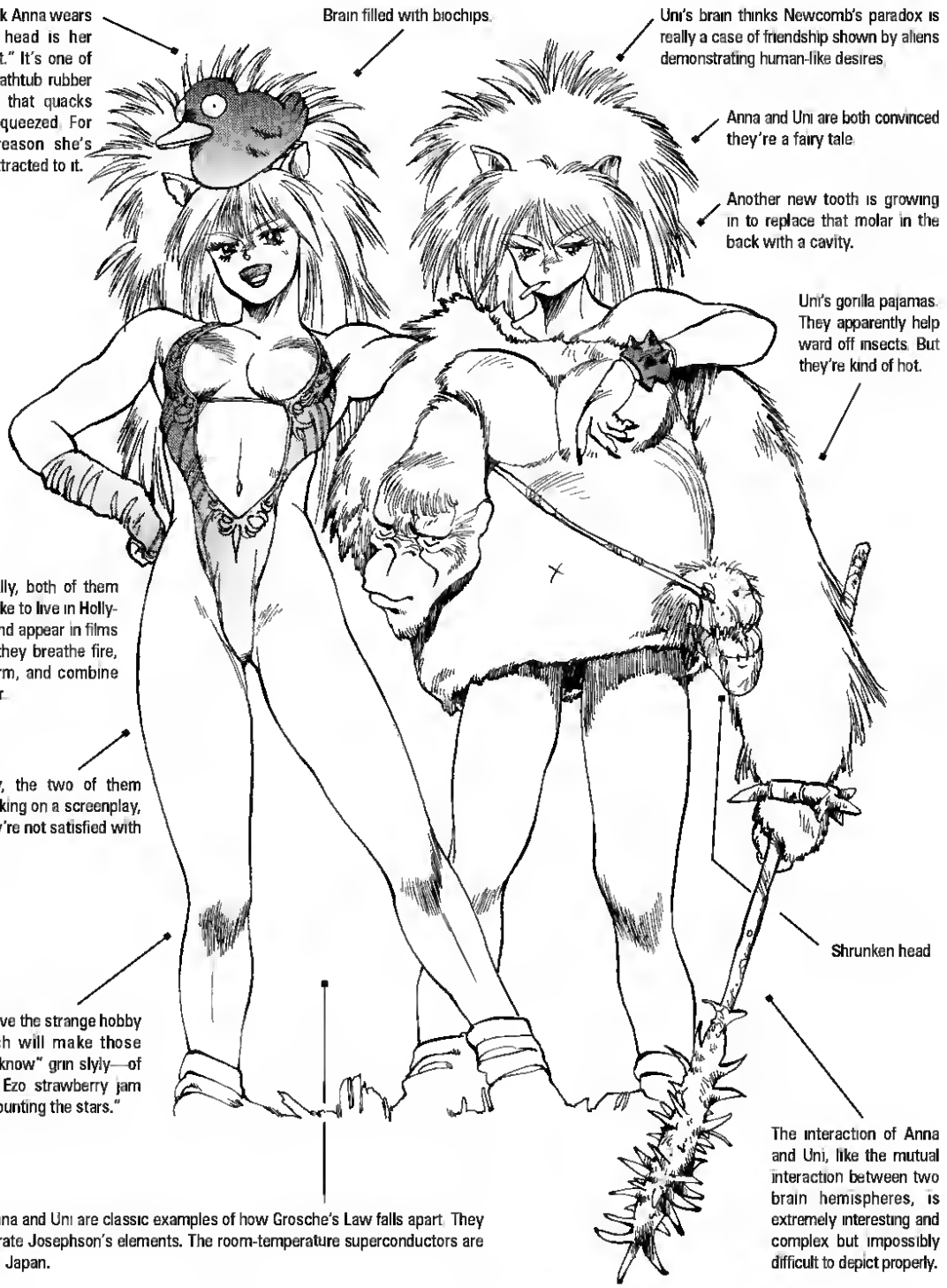
On the other hand, he takes good care of his friends and often spends time talking with young people brought into the juvenile affairs department. He was himself apparently a bit of a trouble-maker in his student days, and he's something of an expert on juvenile delinquency as a result. He loves karaoke singing but isn't very good at it.

Nam's actually the person who fired BBs at "Seishiro," the head of the Rokko hot-rodder gang, and made him look like a tree worked over by an acorn woodpecker. This is a secret, of course.

Before joining the Tank Police, reportedly did undercover work for the Narcotics Section. After a big raid he blew his cover, though, and had to be transferred to the Tank Police. He still hangs out with Valerie, a bar girl from the Cressia cabaret.

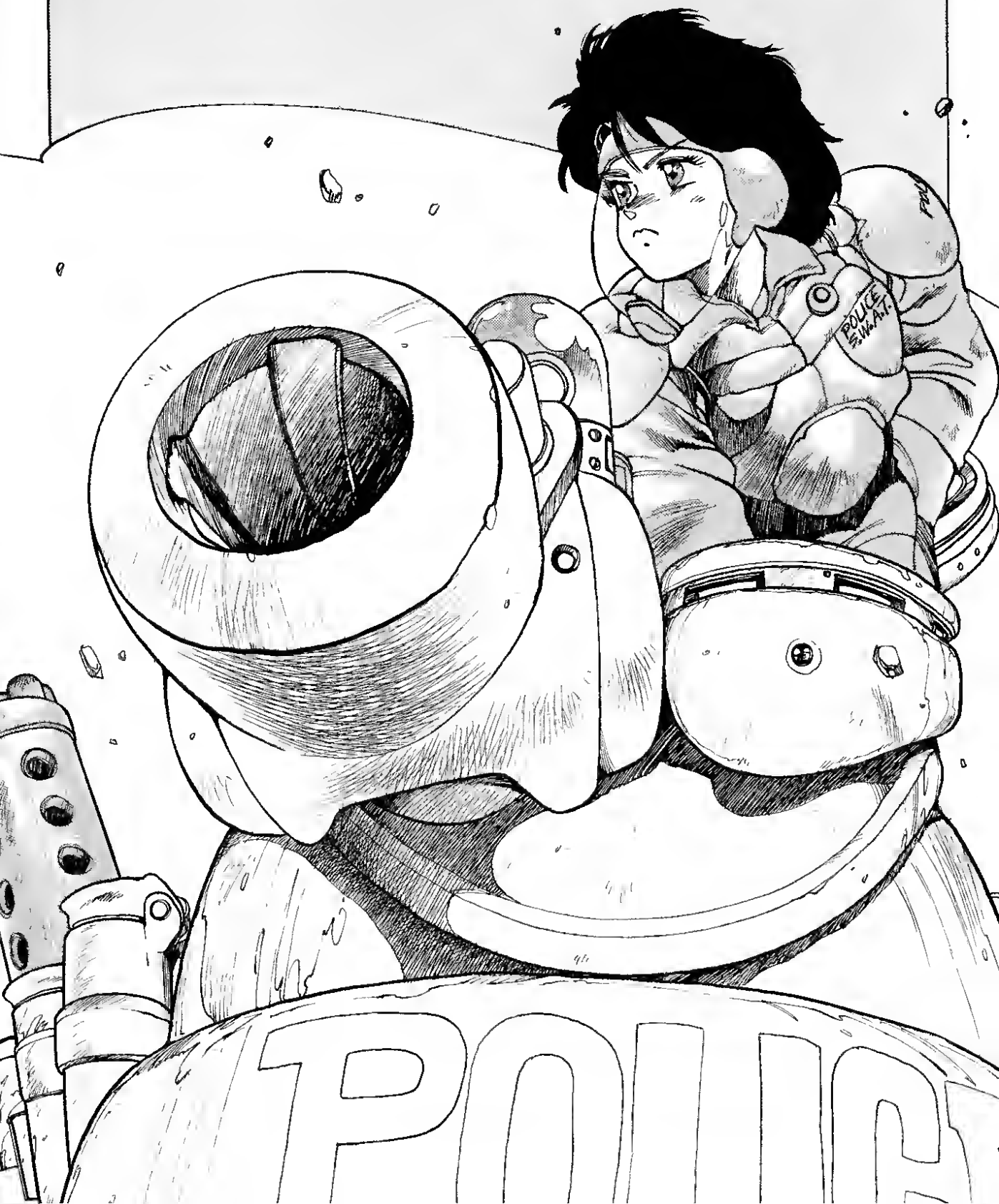
Both Annapuma and Unipuma are 6' 1/4" tall, but there's apparently a 0.014" difference in the length of their ears. Unipuma's the original, and Anna's the clone. How they otherwise differ is a bit of a mystery.

They graphically reflect a certain perverted fantasy of the scientists who created them, but this fact doesn't seem to bother them at all.


The duck Anna wears on her head is her "mascot." It's one of those bathtub rubber duckies that quacks when squeezed. For some reason she's really attracted to it.
Brain filled with biochips.
Uni's brain thinks Newcomb's paradox is really a case of friendship shown by aliens demonstrating human-like desires.
Anna and Uni are both convinced they're a fairy tale.
Another new tooth is growing in to replace that molar in the back with a cavity.
Uni's gorilla pajamas. They apparently help ward off insects. But they're kind of hot.
Eventually, both of them would like to live in Hollywood and appear in films where they breathe fire, transform, and combine together.
Actually, the two of them are working on a screenplay, but they're not satisfied with it yet.
Shrunken head
They have the strange hobby —which will make those "in the know" grin slyly—of "eating Ezo strawberry jam while counting the stars."
Both Anna and Uni are classic examples of how Grosche's Law falls apart. They incorporate Josephson's elements. The room-temperature superconductors are made in Japan.
The interaction of Anna and Uni, like the mutual interaction between two brain hemispheres, is extremely interesting and complex but impossibly difficult to depict properly.

DOMINION™

PART IV [PHANTOM OF THE AUDIENCE]



*FX WARF! ARF! GRRR! YARK!
*FX SKRASSH
POLICE-WOMAN LEONA OZAKI, WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!!
*FX TAKKA TAK TAK
FX BRIINNGG
BEEP
KCHAK
OH, NO! IT'S THE DISTRICT PROSECUTOR!
POLICE
S.W.A.T
TANK TEAM
GET HER!!
TIME TO PAY FOR YOUR WANTON BRUTALITY, COP LADY!!

*FX DATATA TATAT TATA
*FX VRRRTTTT
SUFFER THE WRATH OF GOD!
HE'S BALD BECAUSE HE'S OLD!
VEEEEEK!!
*FX BKAMM
*FX BEEP BEEP
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
*FX BKOOM WHUMPH
MY-- MY BONAPARTE!!
HAW HAW HAW! YEE HEE HO HO!
NYA HA HA HA!
7:31
7:32
HAW!
HAW!
POLICE
*FX BARROOO BARROOO

*FX CHUN CHUN
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
hn?
SUN SUN
*FX WHOOSH
DIE!!
*WHICHAK
*FX CHAK
*SPAK
*CHING
*PISH
BAM BAM
*SPAK
BAM
*WEEOO
YOU $%#!! OBNOXIOUS ALARM CLOCK, YOU!! TAKE THAT !!
OH, DEAR ... NOT AGAIN ...
eeep!
LEONA, DEAR! IF YOU DON'T GO DONATE SOME BLOOD AND GET YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE DOWN, YOU'LL--
*FX VREEEEE
*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM

*FX: HEH HEH
I SAID, DID YOU THROW AW--
WHAT DID YOU SAY? I CAN'T HEEEEAR YOUUUU ...
DON'T BOTHER LEONA, DEAR, OR YOU'LL BE LATE TO SCHOOL AGAIN.
HEY, SIS!! DID YOU THROW AWAY MY FERMENTED INAGO BEANS WITHOUT ASKING ?!
SHKK
WHAT A NIGHT-MARE...
*FX: POW
AIEE!!
*BREAKFAST
*LUNCH
*DINNER
GLUG GLUG
WHAT IS THIS-- SOME KIND OF STING OPERATION FOR PUBLIC SERVANT NEWS LEAKS?
SAY, LEONA, WHERE ARE THIS MORN-ING'S SPEED TRAPS ?
*VRMM
SEE YOU FOR DINNER !
KLIK
I'VE GOT EVERY-THING, MOMMY.
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN SUCH A HURRY, DEAR. NOW YOU DIDN'T FORGET YOUR HANDKERCHIEF, DID YOU? YOUR PISTOL? YOUR LUNCH MONEY ?

*signs NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT / BARGAIN PRICES
NEWPORT POLICE DEPT
ニューポート警察署
*FX. TAKKA TAKKA RRIINNGG
*FX. RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAK
HMMM... ISN'T HE THAT CITY COUNCIL-MAN EVERYONE'S SAYING MIGHT BE OUR NEXT MAYOR?
KLIK
UMM...
EVER HEAR OF A MR "KENNY PAUR-GRABB" ...?
KLIK
YES, THIS IS THE POLICE. GIVE ME YOUR ADDRESS AND DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM, MA'AM.
Japanese Tanks
beep
*FX. RRIINNGG
AND AS USUAL, THERE'S GONNA BE A BUNCH OF KNUCKLEHEADS OUT THERE PROTESTING. I WANT YOU TO HELP CLEAR THEM OUT.
KLIK
KLIK
HE'S GOING TO BE STAYING AT THE SPORTS STADIUM IN NADAHAMA TONIGHT. WANTS TO BE THERE FOR THE AWARDS CEREMONIES TOMORROW MORNING.
THAT'S THE ONE.
...
tak takka
THAT THE SAME PAURGRABB WHO'S BEEN SPONSORING THE NATIONAL SMARTBALL CHAMPION-SHIP?
*FX. RRIINNGG

THE EGGHEADS ARE SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE ON IT. BUT THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN-- JUST DO YOUR JOB.
KLIK
...
BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A ROUGH SPORT, THAT'S WHY. PEOPLE GET THEIR BACTERIA FILTER MASKS KNOCKED OFF. SOME IDIOTS GET SO EXCITED THEY YANK 'EM OFF THEMSELVES. I DUNNO... BEATS ME.
BUT I DON'T GET IT... SMARTBALL'S PRACTICALLY MORE POPULAR THAN BASEBALL. WHY ARE THERE DEMONSTRATORS?
*FX TAK TAK TAKKA BRIINNGG
YEAH... THIS WAY YOU CAN USE BONAPARTE.
KLIK
KLIK
AIK
THANK HEAVENS I DON'T HAVE TO BE A BODYGUARD.
*FX HAHAHA
GEE, CAPTAIN BRENTEN, SIR... AREN'T YOU COMING?
PAT
KLIK
*FX TAKKA TAK
AL, WE'RE OUTTA HERE! DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME ON BRENTEN!
YES, YES, YOU'RE SUCH A BABE, I KNOW.
LOOK, LOOK! I TRIED A NEW LIPSTICK COLOR THIS MORNING!
BONAPARTE'S TIRED OF WAITING.
P-PLEASE... MY MEDICINE ...
SUCH A BABE BABE BABE BABE BABE
NOTE ECHOES
MS. BEECHAM ... MY ULCER MEDICINE ...
WHAT A FUCK
JUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT "DELETE" MEANS ...
I HATE THESE GODDAMN SILICON SHITBAGS!!
*FX WRAK SKRASH

*sash VICTIM OF SMARTBALL
*newspaper THE TRUTH ABOUT SMART BALL!
SMART BALL II
SMART BALL IS DANGEROUS!
JUDE YELLOWS VS WHITE PARES
SMART BALL MUST BE BANNED!
*PEOPLE TALKING
わわ
WONDER IF THE 9-15 CREW PULL IT OFF?
*sign STOP SMARTBALL!
*FX WAHAHA WAHAHAHAHA
*signs STOP VIOLENT SPORTS! STOP SMARTBALL!
SMART-BALL IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL!!
SMARTBALL PROMOTES GAMBLING! SMARTBALL FILLS THE POCKETS OF ORGANIZED CRIME!
わはは
PEOPLE OF NEWPORT! DON'T BE TRICKED BY FAST-TALKING POLITICIANS!
わはははは
SMART-BALL IGNORES HUMAN RIGHTS!
KICK MY BONA-PARTE AND DIE!!
わーーー
KILL THE PIGS!!!
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN...
*VRMM
*VROWW
POLICE
*FX BDMDMBDM WAAAA

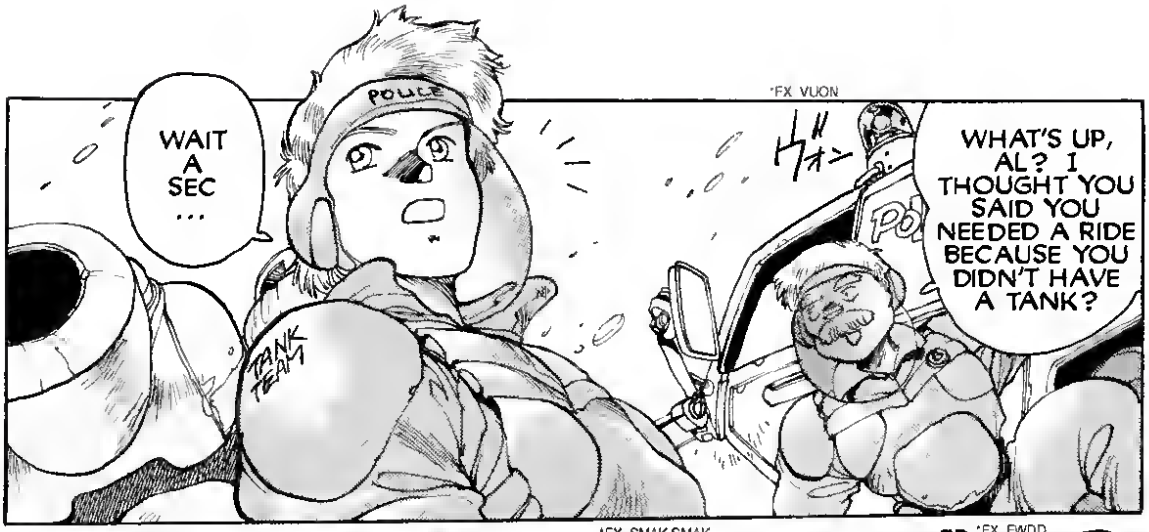
PICTURE ABE GLAD/ THE STORY OF HONEST LUKE THE HAPPY CENTENARIAN
*FX BOO! BOO HSSSSS!
*FX KCHUNK
YOU THINK YOU CAN DISTRACT US WITH SUCH A CHILDISH TRICK ?!?
AW, SHADDAP!
LONG, LONG AGO THERE WAS A SILLY LITTLE ANTI-BIOTIC MOLD CULTURE WHO NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT PAYING TAXES AND A HARD-WORKING WHITE BLOOD CELL...
GOOD DAY, CHILDREN!
TAX THIEVES !!
PIGS GO HOME !!
SCREW YOU, PIG! WE'RE NOT BREAKING ANY LAWS!
YEAH! GET 'ER!
YOW! TAKE IT OFF, BABY!
*FX THUD WHUD THWAK CRUNCH SMAKK THUD
*sign STOP SMARTBALL
DUHH... SO WHAT HE DO ABOUT HIS PENSION, HUH?
*song SOLIDARITY! CLARITY! HILARITY!
NOT TO MENTION ORGANIZED.
I UNDERESTIMATED THESE CLOWNS... THEY'RE SERIOUS.
YOU'RE ALL ACCOMPLICES !!
WHERE WERE THE POLICE WHEN MY DAUGHTER WAS MURDERED IN A SMARTBALL GAME?!!
*sign STOP SMARTBALL

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, LEONA. THEY'RE SO CAUGHT UP IN BLIND IDEALISM THEY CAN'T HEAR IT. AS FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED EVERY-THING THEY SAY IS TRUTH.
YOU THINK AN ESTABLISH-MENT DOG'D BE DUMB ENOUGH TO TAKE THIS JOB ?!
SHADDAP OR I'LL BLOW YOU AWAY !!
BACK TO YOUR DOG-HOUSE !
RUNNING FROGS OF THE ESTABLISH-MENT, GO HOME !
FUCK YOU ASSHOLE !
THAT'S "DOGS," FRED
POLICE
WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR EVIL DOESN'T MATTER... POWER WITHOUT RESTRAINT ALWAYS GOES TOO FAR.
THAT'S WHAT THE LAW IS HERE TO PREVENT-- THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO FIGHT!
AND THAT'S WHERE THEY ALL FALL DOWN.
ヒュウウ
CURSE YOU, TANK POLICE !
IF YOU THINK THE SOLDIERS OF JUSTICE WILL SURRENDER TO THAT KIND OF TRICK, YOU GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!
SO IT'S THIS EASY TO FOOL THE MASSES ...
*FX WHOOO
ぴ〜
ひょろれ〜
*FX (sound of music)
ALL I SAID WAS DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH! IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!
*FX GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN GRNN
ラ〜〜
ラリラ〜
ドドドドドド
ざっざっ
とろ〜〜ん
*FX (sound of crowd moving)
*FX (sound of singing)
*FX LURCH

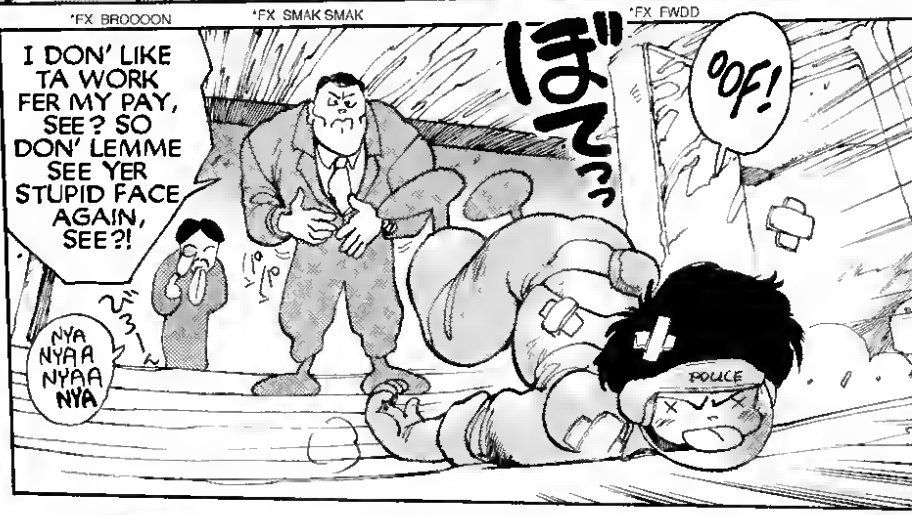
*signs PURITY OF SPIRIT/JUSTICE
OH, BEAUTI-FULLY PUT, MR. PAURGRABB, BEAUTI-FULLY PUT!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
THE DEMON-STRATORS SEEM TO BE PULLING OUT.
*FX VWHIPP VWHIPP
*FX SHAZAMM
くるくるくる
ボワン
*FX CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
SMARTLY DONE!
*FX CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
*FX WHUDD
POLICE
Yowwww!
CUT IT OUT!!

HOW DARE YOU BREAK IN WITH-OUT AN APPOINT-MENT?!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS "SHAZAMM VWHIPP VHWIPP," GIRL ?!
HAIYAHH! RYAAHH!
HYAHH!
WOW!
*FX CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
TA-DAA!
POLICE
HAII YOH!
HELP HELP HELP
POOR ME...
*FX WHIZZ
tee hee
AND I'M PAUR-GRABB THE BIG BAD POLI-TICIAN!
AND HEEEEERE'S LEONA OF THE BIG BAD TANK POLICE!
*FX HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

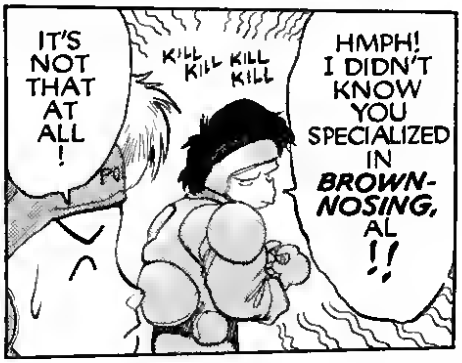
*FX EEP EEP EEP
THEN WHAT IS IT, EH? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
H-H-HALVED OUR BUDGET ....?! I D-DIDN'T KNOW .....
MAYBE SHE HEARD YOU TOOK BRIBES?
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS, LITTLE LADY? IT WASN'T ME WHO CUT YOUR TANK POLICE BUDGET IN HALF ...
QUITE SO, QUITE SO. HRMPH!
THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER!
THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY COY, BOSS!!
*newspaper CROSSWORD PUZZLE
END OF DISCUSSION. HE'LL HELP YOU TO THE DOOR.
IT'S NOT ME WHO WANTS SMART-BALL, MY DEAR-- IT'S THE MASSES.
THAT'S NOT A SPORT! IT'S MURDER! EITHER THE RULES SHOULD BE CHANGED, OR IT SHOULD BE OUTLAWED!
ON AVERAGE, ONE ATHLETE DIES IN EVERY TWO GAMES OF SMART-BALL !!
SOMETHING THOSE DEMONSTRATORS SAID REALLY GOT TO ME, SO I DID A LITTLE INVESTIGATING, AND GUESS WHAT?!
IF YOU PULL THE TRIGGER AND SOMEONE DIES, ARE YOU GOING TO BLAME THE BULLET?! IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF JUSTICE?!
*FX NGRR
のそっ


WAIT A SEC ...
POLICE
TANK TEAM
*FX VUON
WHAT'S UP, AL? I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU NEEDED A RIDE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE A TANK?

*FX NGRRR
LEONA! CALM DOWN!
GRRRR
IT!
GOD-DAMN!
I C-C-C-C-C-CAN'T STAND IT!!! I CAN'T STAND IT!!
POLICE


*FX BROOOON
*FX SMAK SMAK
*FX FWDD
I DON' LIKE TA WORK FER MY PAY, SEE? SO DON' LEMME SEE YER STUPID FACE AGAIN, SEE?!
NYA NYAA NYAA NYA
ぼてっ
OOF!
POLICE

YOU CAN'T SAVE PEOPLE WITH A TANK!


IT'S NOT THAT AT ALL!
KILL KILL KILL KILL
HMPH! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SPECIALIZED IN BROWN-NOSING, AL!!

WE DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SEARCH AND INTER-ROGATE WITH-OUT A WAR-RANT.
I'M JUST SAYING THIS ISN'T PART OF OUR BRIEF-- WE'RE TANK POLICE, REMEM-BER?
POLICE

*FX SLAM VROOMM
I SHALL RETURN, KENNY PAUR-GRABB! I SHALL RETURN!
POLICE
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
OH, FATHER, EXTEND YOUR HAND OF LOVE TO THIS POOR LOST SHEEP.
I HOPE SHE FEELS BETTER...
POLICE
*FX RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB
FORGIVE ME, AL. BUT AT LEAST THIS WAY NO ONE CAN BLAME YOU FOR WHAT I DO.
政治をつくるのは 政治家ではなく市民だお
おなたの1票が 市政を決める! (使) とーひょーしまひょー
*sign YOUR SINGLE VOTE CAN CHANGE THE POLITICS OF OUR FAIR CITY! REGISTER TODAY!
*sign POLITICIANS DON'T MAKE POLITICS PEOPLE DO

OH, DEARIE ME, COMMANDER BRENTEN-- JUVENILE DEPARTMENT REPORTS HAVE TO BE ON THE BLUE FORMS. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DO THEM ALL OVER.
JUST ONE MORE KEY-STROKE ...!
GOD, IT WAS A LONG, HARD BATTLE ....
*FX BKOOM
BAHAHAHAHAHA!
FX SPAKK
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, LEONA? IN OTHER WORDS ....
.....
*FX HEH HEH HEH HEH

I'VE BEEN SUSPENDED ?!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ?!!!
AT LEAST THIS WAY, WE AVOID THE WORST CASE SCENARIO !!
I KNOW I COULD CHANGE YOUR JOB AND YOUR POSTING, AND YOU'D STILL GO STRAIGHT BACK TO PAUR-GRABB !
YOUR GUN AND YOUR BADGE! HAND THEM OVER !!
*FX. THUD CLANK WHDD
ゴゴトゴトン
*MM...?
*FX TAKKA RRIINNGG
AT THE VERY LEAST, MAKE SURE YOUR STAFF KNOWS ITS PROPER PLACE, EH?
GOOD, GOOD, THAT'S GOOD.
HQ ISN'T HAPPY WITH YOU
DO--YOU--UNDERSTAND ?!!
DON'T YOU EVER GIVE THAT ASSHOLE OF AN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANOTHER CHANCE TO THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND IN MY OFFICE!!

*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK TAK RRIINNGG
KLIK
WHAT-EVER... BUT DO LET ME SAY JUST ONE LAST LITTLE THING--
UH, NO ... UH ... LOOK ...
MAYBE I WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR ....
I'LL ADMIT THAT IT MAY BE THE FAULT OF THE TANK POLICE THAT THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER BEAT YOU OUT FOR A PROMOTION, CHIEF.
*WHAP
I QUIT QUIT QUIT !!
I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN SEE THE TANK POLICE KISSING ASS AND PERVERTING JUSTICE !!
*FX RRIINNGG TAKKA TAK
EXIT
*FX KSMAK
NYA HA HA HA HA HA! MAKE MY DAY!
*sign I RESIGN TOO —BONAPARTE MK II
*sign I RESIGN! —LEONA OZAKI (IMEAN IT)

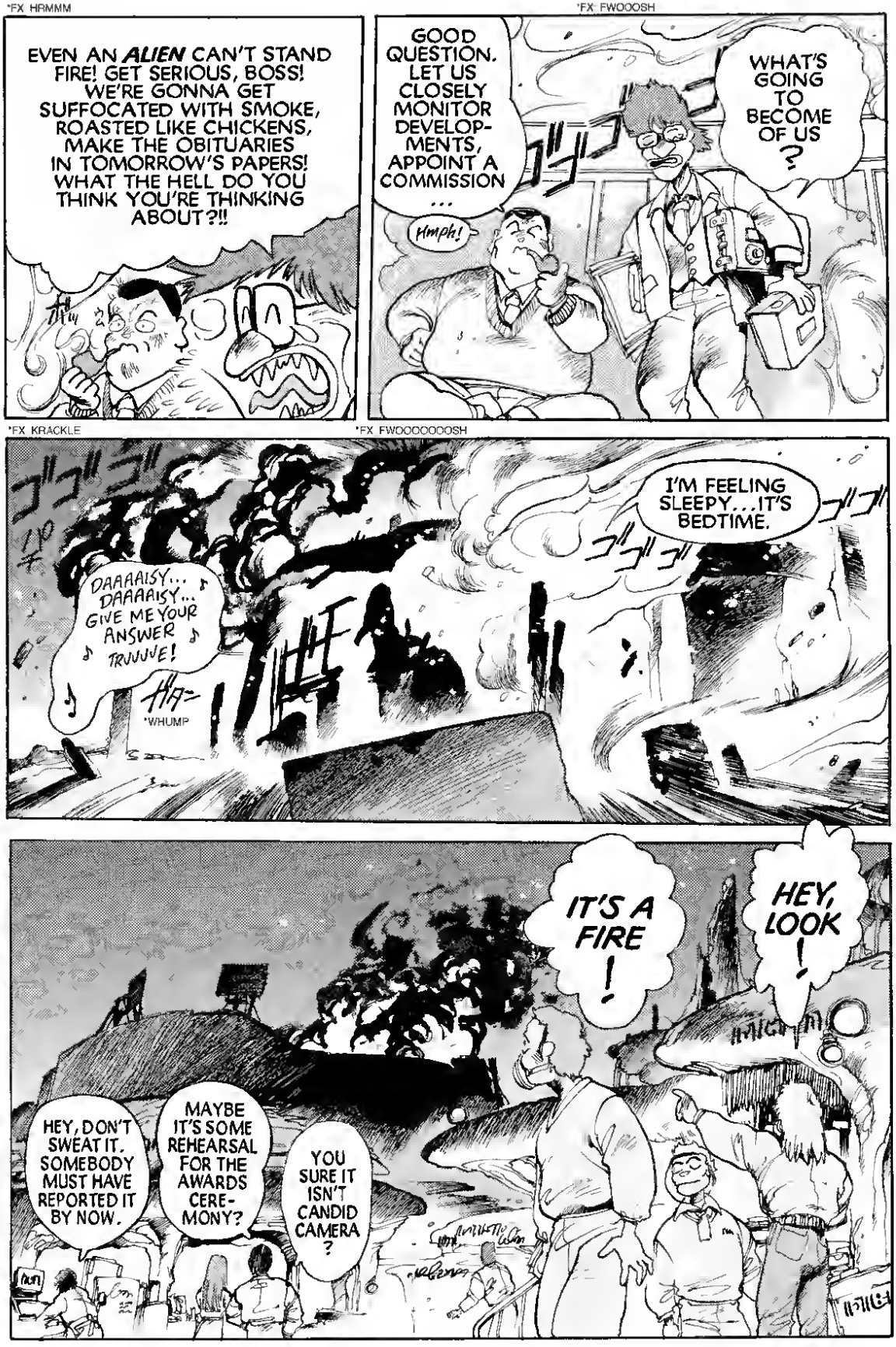
sign YOUR RATINGS DECIDE OUR PROGRAMMING! LET'S ALL WATCH SMART BALL WE DO IT BECAUSE YOU WATCH IGNORE THE DANGER!!

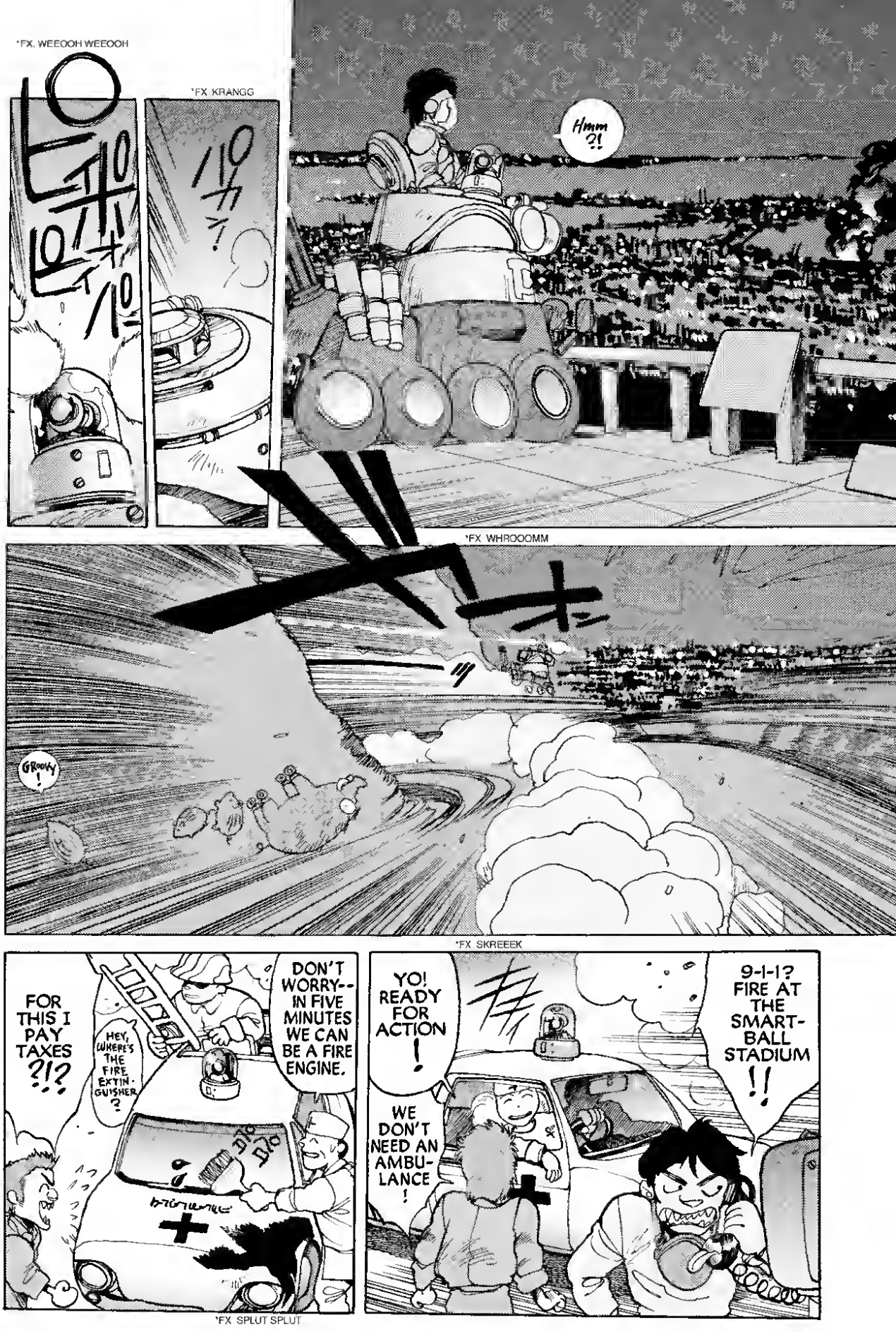
SMART BALL
*FX SNEAK SNEAK
こそこそっ
ガサガサ
GOTCHA!
WELCOME
HEY! JUST IGNORE THAT BURGLAR TRAP!
DOLT! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU'RE A FIGHTER FOR JUSTICE, REMEMBER! SHOW SOME GUTS! ALL WE'RE DOING IS SETTING OFF A FEW SMOKE BOMBS DURING THE AWARDS CEREMONY. IT'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING, GET IT?
GEE, BOSS... DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A BIT MUCH?

*FX BEEPBEEPBEEPBEEPBEEP
NOT THAT BUTTON, IDIOT!
KLIK
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT...
*FX WHBKOOM
URK?!
YAAEE!
*FX SPLORK
*FX WHUDD
NOW WE'RE REALLY STUCK!
IT'S THE BURGLAR TRAP!
OH SHIT!

*FX SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
カカカ
THAT'S YOUR LOVABLE SIDE, BOSS BUT..
I FEEL LIKE MY FATHER JUST SWATTED ME ON THE HEAD.
HUMPH... NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR SOME YOUNG SPRAT TALK ABOUT JUSTICE IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
IT'S A FIRE!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?!
もくもく
ボテ
*FX PUFF PUFF WHUD
JUSTICE, EH? WHAT A FRIENDLY, OLD-FASHIONED WORD...
もくもく
*FX PUFF PUFF
MONEY!
POWER!
URF!
STILL, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR COPS LIKE HER.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!

YES, MY FRIENDS, I FEEL SLIGHTLY DIZZY ...
AH HA HA
MR. PAUR-GRABB! PULL YOUR-SELF TO-GETHER!
*FX KRACKLE KRACKLE
YOW! YOWWW!
!
*FX FWOOOOOSH
ゴゴゴゴ
OH, GOD! WE'RE SUR-ROUNDED BY FLAMES!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
HELLO, HELLO, GOOD FRIEND SPARKY! KENNY'S THE NAME.
HORSE-TRADE! NEGOTIATE! MAYBE WE CAN CUT A DEAL-- GET OUR POINT ACROSS.
ゴゴゴゴゴ
WH-WH-WHAT SHALL WE DO?!
FLIK FLIKR
FLIK FLIKR
JUST BE GLAD IT WASN'T "THE THING," SIR.
YOU LITTLE DEVILS!
*FX FWOOOSH


*FX HRMMM
EVEN AN ALIEN CAN'T STAND FIRE! GET SERIOUS, BOSS! WE'RE GONNA GET SUFFOCATED WITH SMOKE, ROASTED LIKE CHICKENS, MAKE THE OBITUARIES IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT?!!
*FX FWOOOSH
GOOD QUESTION. LET US CLOSELY MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS, APPOINT A COMMISSION ...
Hmph!
WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF US ?
*FX KRACKLE
DAAAAISY... DAAAAISY... GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER TRUUUE!
*WHUMP
*FX FWOOOOOOOSH
I'M FEELING SLEEPY...IT'S BEDTIME.
IT'S A FIRE !
HEY, LOOK !
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT. SOMEBODY MUST HAVE REPORTED IT BY NOW.
MAYBE IT'S SOME REHEARSAL FOR THE AWARDS CERE-MONY?
YOU SURE IT ISN'T CANDID CAMERA ?


*FX. WEEOOH WEEOOH
*FX KRANGG
Hmm ?!
*FX WHROOOMM
GROOVY !
*FX SKREEEK
FOR THIS I PAY TAXES ?!?
HEY, WHERE'S THE FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER ?
DON'T WORRY-- IN FIVE MINUTES WE CAN BE A FIRE ENGINE.
*FX SPLUT SPLUT
YO! READY FOR ACTION !
WE DON'T NEED AN AMBU-LANCE !
9-1-1? FIRE AT THE SMART-BALL STADIUM !!

*bucket FIRE
*FX WHOOSSH FWOOOOSH CRACKLE
THE HONOR OF THE FIRE BRIGADE IS AT STAKE! CHARGE !!!
SOOOPER FIRE-MAN!
IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A
NO, HELP ME!
HELP ME!
THERE'S SOME-ONE INSIDE !!
IDIOT! IDIOT-IDIOTIDIOT! GO HOME AND TAKE A GOOD NAP!!
I'D NEED A SUIT OF ARMOR TO GET IN THERE!
OOH, HARDER, HARDER!
*FX FWHOOSH
OWW, YOWCH, OOH! IT'S HOT!
THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE HIM.
NAW, DON'T BOTHER TO SAVE HIM.
OH PLEASE, SOME-BODY SAVE HIM !
OH, WOW... ISN'T THAT COUN-CIL-MAN PAUR-GRABB ?
SMARTBALL EQUALS DEATH-BALL!
HELP ME! I DON'T LIKE IT HOT !!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! DO SOME-THING!
I'M SORRY, GOD! I'VE BEEN A BAD BOY!
WAAAAH, MOMMY, HELP ME, MOMMY!
OOH, OOH, I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!
OH HO HO! BUDDHA WORKS IN MYS-TERIOUS WAYS!
*sign SMARTBALL EQUALS DEATHBALL!
*FX STAMP
*FX ZZZ ZZZ

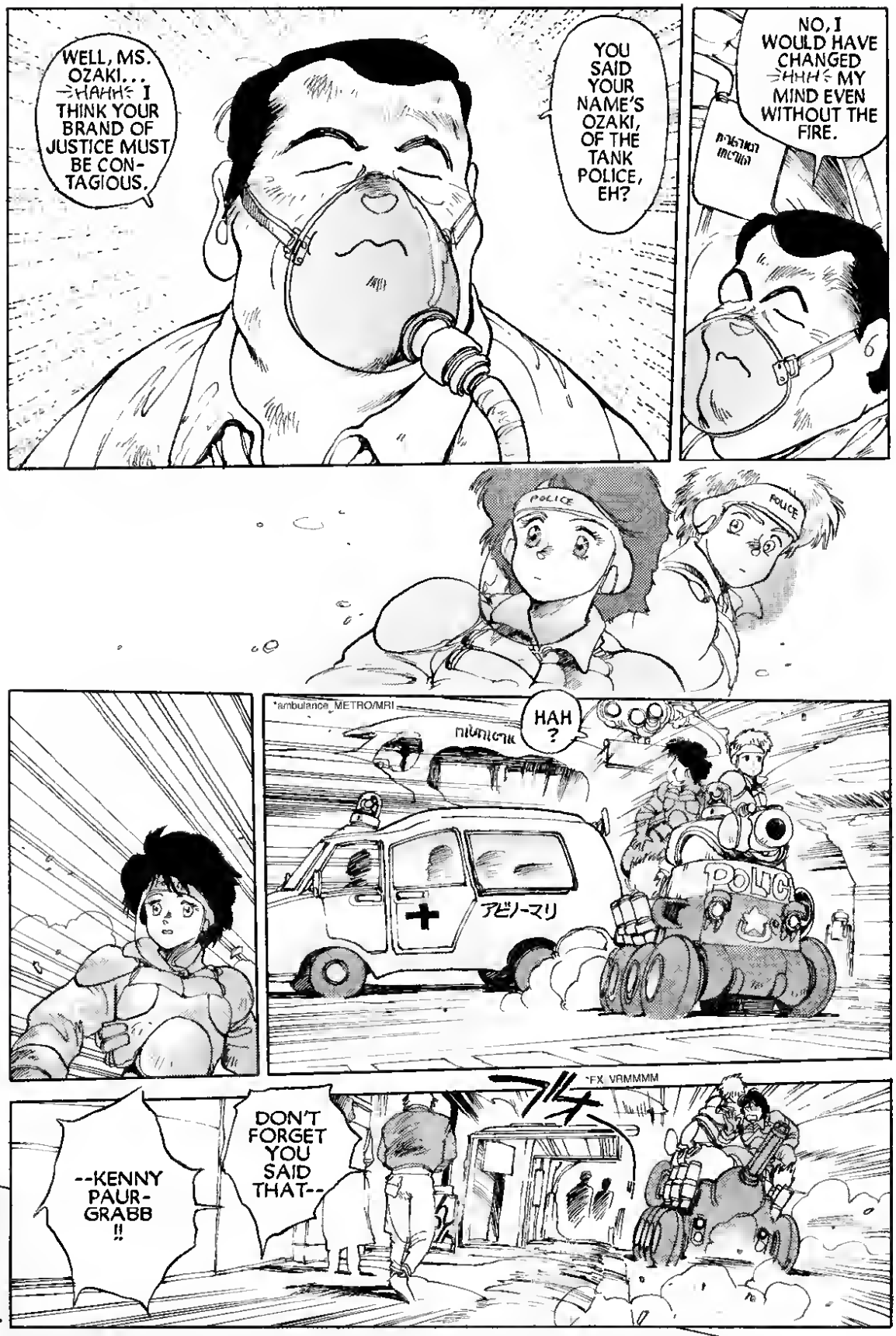
*FX VRROOOOM
TANK POLICE TO THE RESCUE !!
MOVE IT MOVE IT MOVE IT !!
POLICE
*FX VRMMM
*FWOOSSHH
GEE, WHERE DID I HEAR THAT BEFORE ?
JUST ASK YOUR-SELF, "DO I FEEL LUCKY?" ...!!
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP, MOVE IT!
POLICE
*FX VRMMM
POLICE
*FX VROOOM

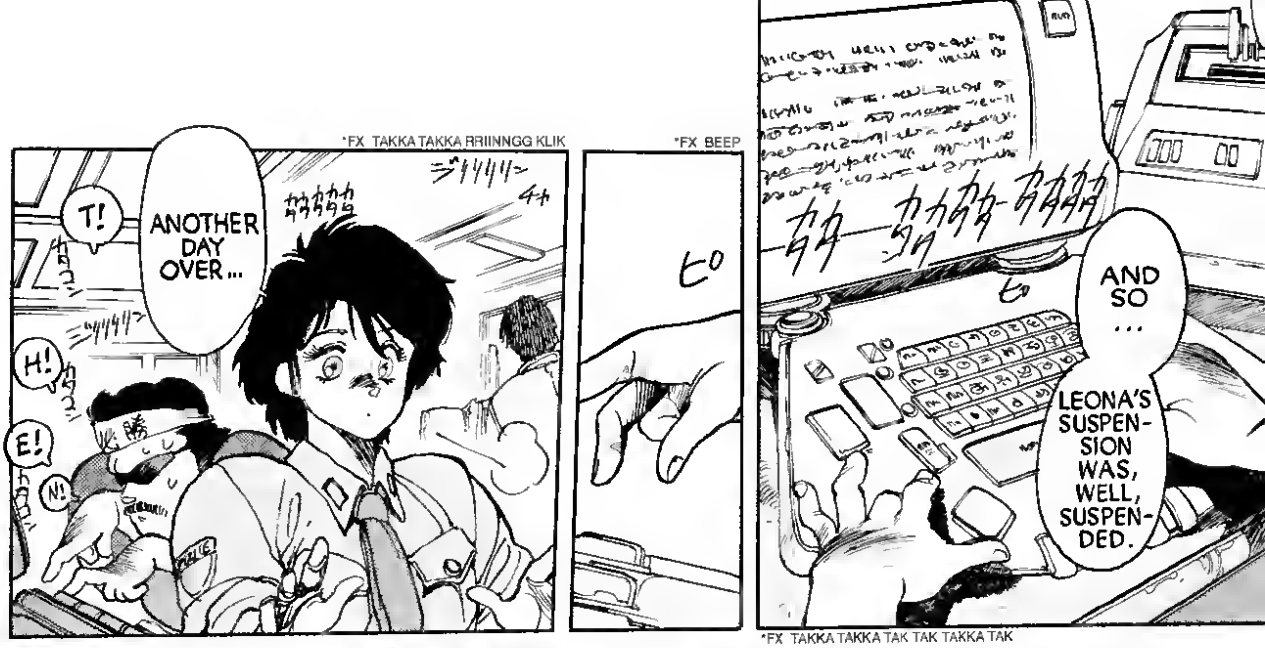
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE! BUG OFF!
'SCUSE ME, MA'AM... SPARE A DIME FOR THE STARVING ORPHANS OF THE WORLD?
:sniff:
GIVE me Love MONEY
WHERE ARE YOU! ARE YOU OKAY ?!
*WHAMM
WHAT THE HELL ...?
Oh, SURE!
NO ONE CARES ANYMORE
*FX VROOMMM
*FX FWHOOSH
*FX VRMMM
*FX FWHOOOOSHHH
POLICE

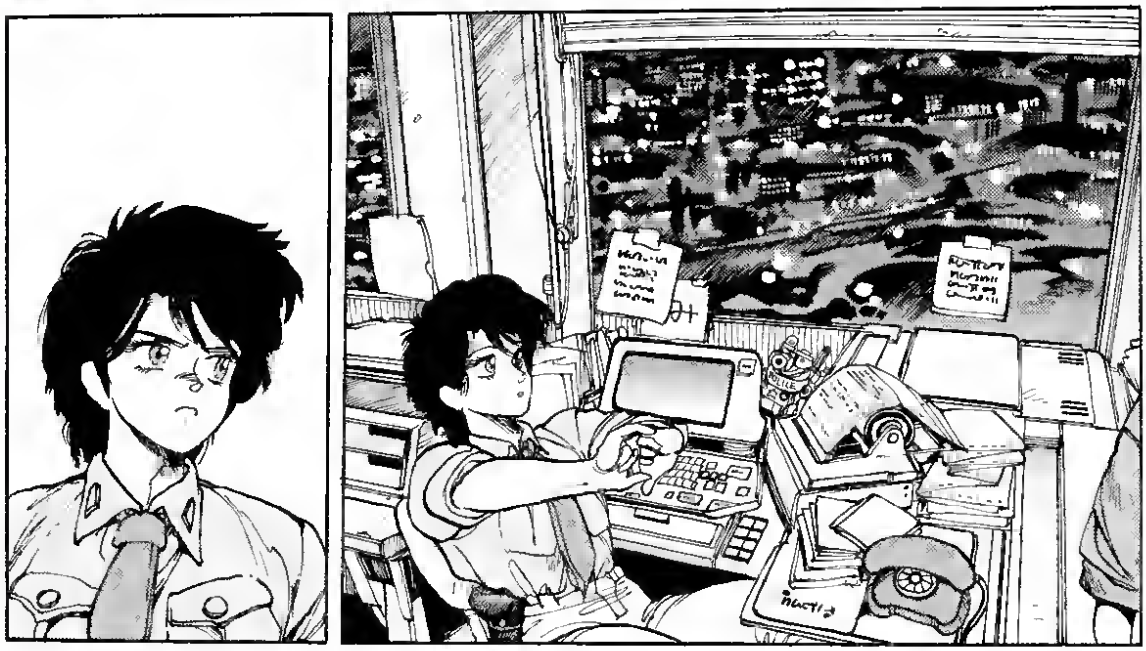
*FX WHOOSH
DOC-TOR! I'VE GOT TWO FOR YOU!
I'M SO GREAT!
LEONA!
POLICE
POLICE
*FX SMAK SMAK SMAKKITY SMAK
WHY YOU YOU YOU YOU!!!
I CAUGHT THE ARSONISTS, LEONA! THEY WERE STUCK IN THE BURGLAR TRAP OUT IN BACK!
HEY! MOVE ALONG, MOVE ALONG, NO-THING TO SEE HERE !!
I WAS SURE I'D FIND YOU HERE.
*FX KONK
ゴリーン!
OW!
TRYING TO FRAME US FOR ARSON, HEY?! TANK POLICE GO HOME !!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP ...
Hmph!
LEONA, YOU TAKE THEM IN-- THAT WAY YOU'LL GET REIN-STATED.
POLICE
YAIEEEE!!
*FX WHRAK

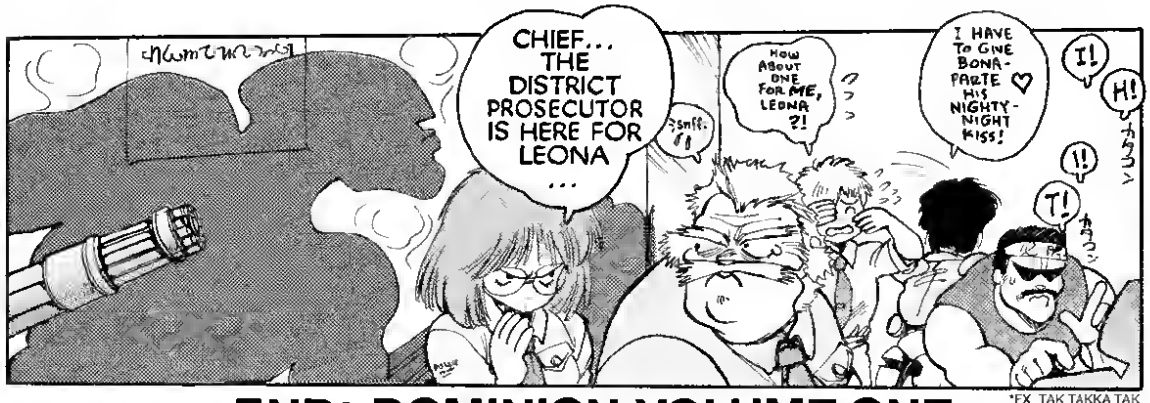
*FX. THUD KRAK WHUD
YEEP!
IT TOOK ME TWO YEARS TO GET USED TO HER...
GEE, I WONDER WHERE THAT GUY WENT?
ANY MORE SHIT FROM YOU LOT AND I'LL BEAT YOUR HEADS IN !!
YES, YES, INDEED !
POLICE
FX. WHOOSHHH
*FX. WHUDD WHRAM THUDD
I'M OUTTA HERE !
ひょ
C'MON! ATTACK ME IF YOU DARE !!
YOU ROTTEN CREEPS! I'LL FEED YOU TO MY SPECIAL HEAVY-DUTY POLICE BATON YOU #$@%!!
whewww
POLICE
GEE, AL-- ARE YOU THE LAST OF THE "I'M OKAY, YOU'RE OKAY" GENERA-TION ?
POLICE
WELL, WE CAUGHT THE ARSONISTS, THERE WEREN'T ANY DEATHS, WE WON'T BE SEEING MUCH SMARTBALL FOR A WHILE AND THE DEMON-STRATORS ARE HAPPILY RIOTING-- ALL'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD...

*FX KANG KANG KANG
=HHAH= DON'T KNOW WHAT =HHNN= YOU MEAN... =HHAA=
YOU WON'T GET MY VOTE !
ALL THANKS TO YOU !!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING REINSTATED? I'M STILL ON SUSPENSION... IT'S MEANINGLESS.
WE HAVE TO GET YOUR RESIGNATION CANCELLED.
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, LEONA.
POLICE
OOH, LOOK AT THE SLACKER !
I'M GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, SO THERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SLACKER" ...! WHO'S A SLACKER ?!
TURNING THE PERSON WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE INTO AN UNEMPLOYED SLACKER, THAT'S WHAT!
BUT I DIDN'T =HANH= TELL THEM WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. =HAAHH=
IT'S TRUE I TOLD POLICE HEADQUARTERS =HAHH= THAT AN ECCENTRIC COP HAD VISITED ME... =HAHN=
BOSS!! =HAHH= YOU'RE NOT GIVING IN TO THREATS...?! =HAHNH=
=HHFF= THAT'S NOT RIGHT, BOSS !!
OR THEN AGAIN =HNFF= MAYBE IT WILL ALL BLOW OVER AS USUAL.
THIS WHOLE AFFAIR SHOULD BRING OUT THE PRESS. =HNFF= THEY'LL LOOK INTO SMARTBALL =HAHH= AND THINGS WILL PROBABLY CHANGE. =HHAH=


WELL, MS. OZAKI... ﾊﾊﾊﾊ I THINK YOUR BRAND OF JUSTICE MUST BE CONTAGIOUS.
YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S OZAKI, OF THE TANK POLICE, EH?
NO, I WOULD HAVE CHANGED ﾊﾊﾊﾊ MY MIND EVEN WITHOUT THE FIRE.
POLICE
POLICE
*ambulance_METRO/MRI
HAH ?
POLICE
アビノーマリ
--KENNY PAUR-GRABB !!
DON'T FORGET YOU SAID THAT--
*FX_VRMMMM
DON'T FORGET ...







END: DOMINION VOLUME ONE

Buaku is also known as the "Crime Machine." He's not so much a biochip robot as he is an extremely inorganic "bio-being." In other words, he's simply a new type of life form (by "new," I don't mean "more advanced" or "superior"—just "different," and plain old new). Buaku made his first appearance in the annals of crime over eighty-three years ago, in Argentina. Subsequently, he committed various nefarious acts around the world, with results readers are all too familiar with. His name appears in the Soviet *Apn Cnymhuk*, as well as China's *Xian Hua* News Agency.

His file has somehow disappeared recently from the archives of the Newport police station. But no one has realized this yet . . .

Noggin capable only of evil thoughts.

In our story Buaku's right arm seems to have become a bit stiff. It dates back to the time when—during his first action in Japan—he slugged a man too hard. He had stolen some gold, and was in the process of fleeing the scene of the crime, when a strange man suddenly materialized in his path and accosted him with the words, "Excuse me, my friend, but have you heard of the Jehovah's Wi—" Pow *pow* KRAK whdd!

A hallmark of Buaku's eyes is that you can't tell what they're looking at.

His mouth is like a Vulcan gun, operating under the auspices of "freedom of speech." His arrogant tone often drives listeners into an inexplicable fury. He's also a brazen liar.

Personal motto is "arrogant and audacious."

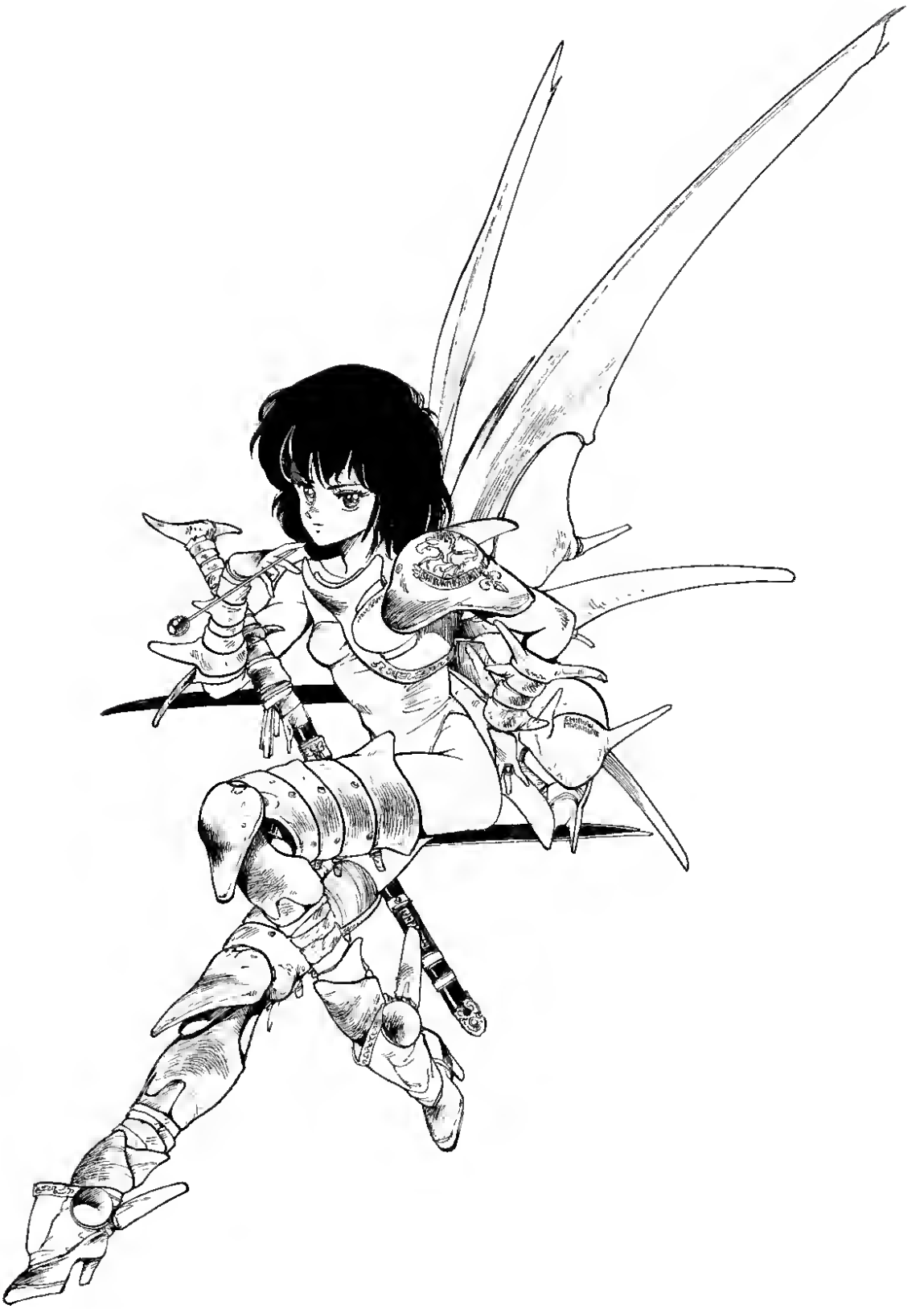
Has no body odor, which means tracking him with dogs is a total waste of money.

A British SAS captain once commented to a Japanese commercial TV station that the SAS has received three reports of Buaku's death, either by shooting or incineration.

His stomach's so huge it forms one third of his body weight. His heart's so black his nickname's "the walking coal bucket."

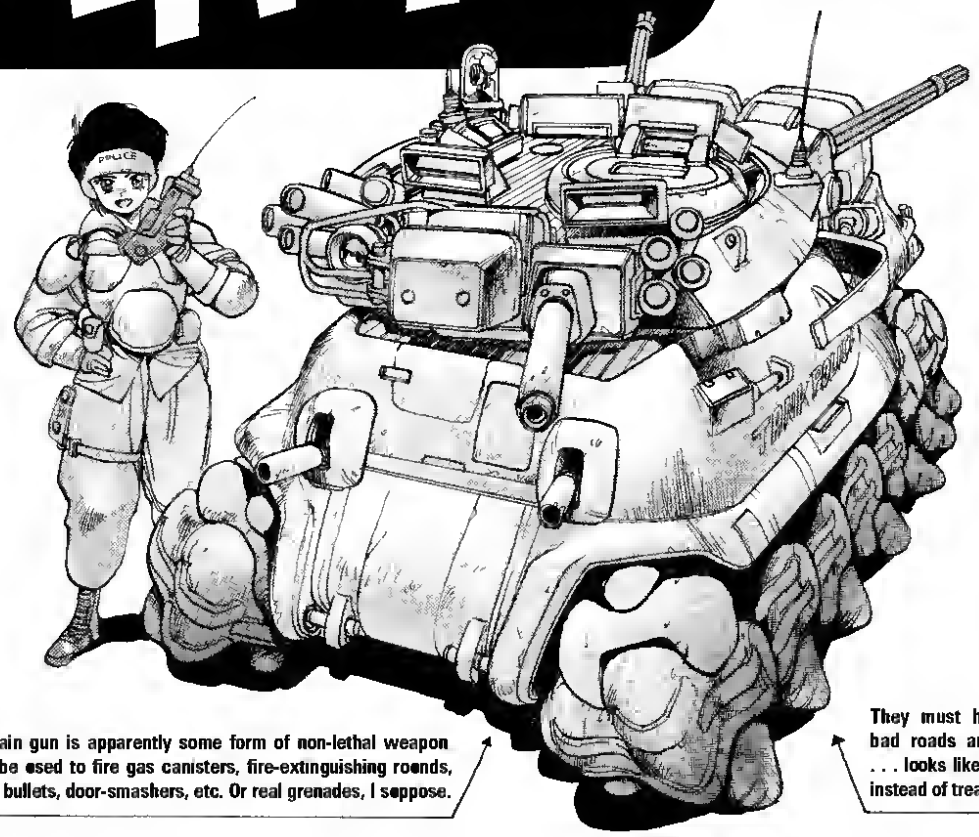
A speech by Buaku and Anna-Uni was apparently recorded for the BBC and Nippon TV's *Thursday Special Feature*, but it turned out to be so antisocial in nature that it was never broadcast. Background music for the piece: "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

This is the costume he wore when he was on the cover of *TIME* magazine. The sword, by the way, is a little tough to unsheathe. According to one analyst's report, Buaku is between 5' 9" and 5' 10" tall and weighs over 350 pounds.



THE MINI TANK!

by
SHIROW MASAMUNE
[additional materiel by TOREN SMITH]


POLICE
The main gun is apparently some form of non-lethal weapon Could be used to fire gas canisters, fire-extinguishing rounds, rubber bullets, door-smashers, etc. Or real grenades, I seppose.
They must have pretty bad roads around here . . . looks like it has legs instead of treads!

THERE'S BEEN A RECENT INCREASE IN NIHILISTS OUT FOR A GOOD TIME AND "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" LOOKING FOR A QUICK VICTORY. BAD NEWS, huh?
IN A WORLD LIKE MINE, WE ALWAYS HAVE POLITICAL AGITATORS AND FANATICS STIRRING UP TROUBLE.
POLICE

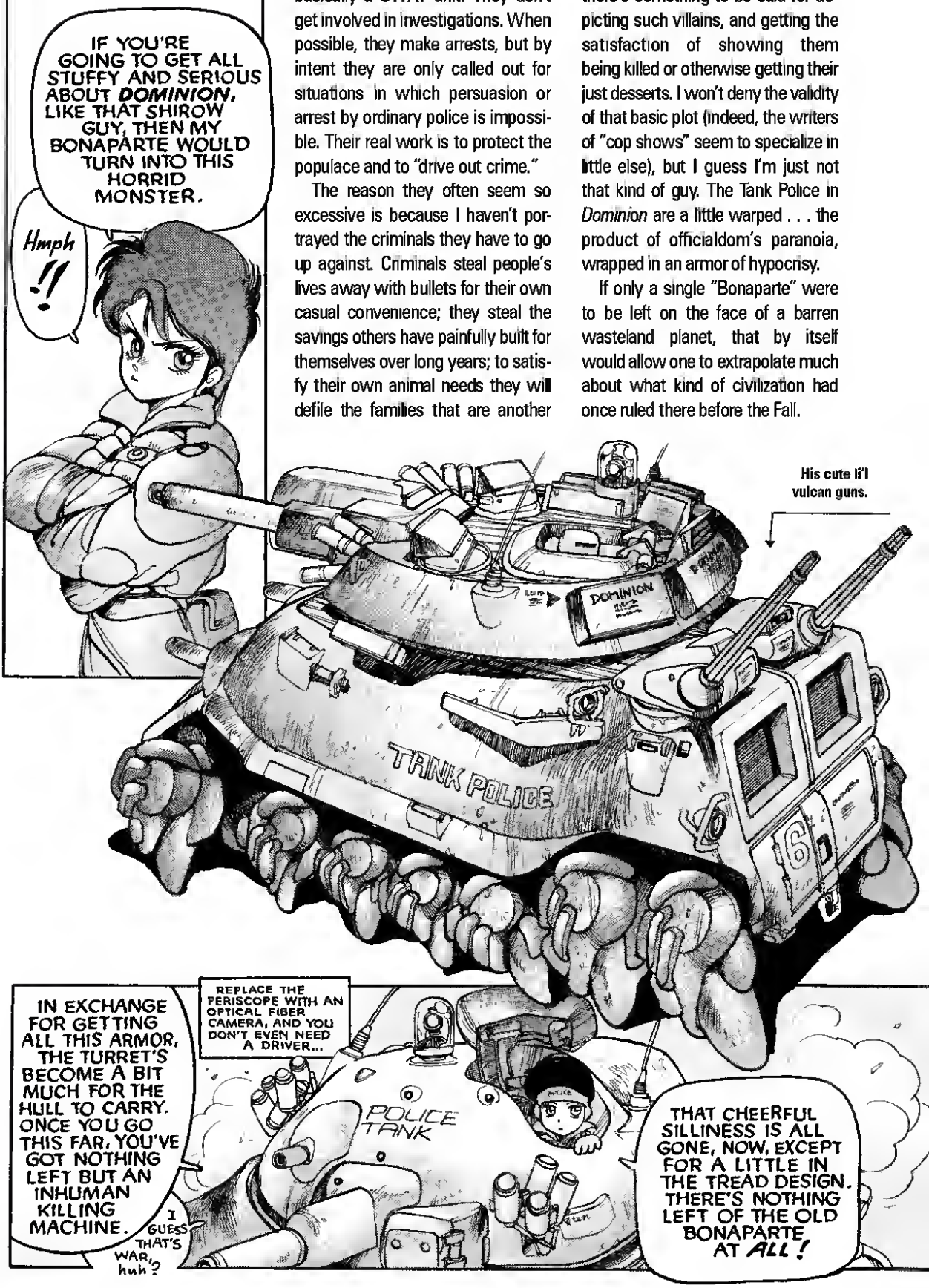
Around the world, most people associate tanks with the military. However, a vast range of police tanks are employed in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America. Even the famous Texas Rangers use armored cars. I'm sure many readers have seen television footage of the armored car (SWAT equipment) being used against protesting crowds in South Africa, the land of apartheid. When police arm themselves with such heavy weaponry, they usually plan to use it against the masses; its very appearance conjures images of civil unrest and political instability. I've seen shots of tanks crashing into an embassy to drive out terrorists, but, to be frank, it struck me as a pretty reckless thing to do.

Seen from that perspective, the world of Dominion must seem an unsettling place, one where people live side-by-side with the fear of sudden death—a world much like Europe in the days of the Black Plague. In such dark days, one can turn for hope only to the people themselves, warped by the age they live in, to be sure, but still trying desperately to live their lives to the fullest . . . No, on second thought maybe there's no hope even there. When you think about it, anyone who can walk around with a smile on their face in a place like that must be a little strange upstairs.

The Tank Police in *Dominion* are basically a SWAT unit. They don't get involved in investigations. When possible, they make arrests, but by intent they are only called out for situations in which persuasion or arrest by ordinary police is impossible. Their real work is to protect the populace and to "drive out crime."

The reason they often seem so excessive is because I haven't portrayed the criminals they have to go up against. Criminals steal people's lives away with bullets for their own casual convenience; they steal the savings others have painfully built for themselves over long years; to satisfy their own animal needs they will defile the families that are another man's greatest love. I suppose there's something to be said for depicting such villains, and getting the satisfaction of showing them being killed or otherwise getting their just desserts. I won't deny the validity of that basic plot (indeed, the writers of "cop shows" seem to specialize in little else), but I guess I'm just not that kind of guy. The Tank Police in *Dominion* are a little warped . . . the product of officialdom's paranoia, wrapped in an armor of hypocrisy.

If only a single "Bonaparte" were to be left on the face of a barren wasteland planet, that by itself would allow one to extrapolate much about what kind of civilization had once ruled there before the Fall.


IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET ALL STUFFY AND SERIOUS ABOUT DOMINION, LIKE THAT SHIROW GUY, THEN MY BONAPARTE WOULD TURN INTO THIS HORRID MONSTER.
Hmph !!
His cute li'l vulcan guns.
DOMINION
TANK POLICE
6
IN EXCHANGE FOR GETTING ALL THIS ARMOR, THE TURRET'S BECOME A BIT MUCH FOR THE HULL TO CARRY. ONCE YOU GO THIS FAR, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT BUT AN INHUMAN KILLING MACHINE.
I GUESS THAT'S WAR, huh?
REPLACE THE PERISCOPE WITH AN OPTICAL FIBER CAMERA, AND YOU DON'T EVEN NEED A DRIVER...
POLICE TANK
THAT CHEERFUL SILLINESS IS ALL GONE, NOW, EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE IN THE TREAD DESIGN. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THE OLD BONAPARTE AT ALL!

People who know their tanks usually count Leonardo Da Vinci's armored landship as the first of the breed, but the first tank used in combat was an armored horse-drawn wagon deployed during a Protestant rebellion in Bohemia. Apparently, this tank closely resembled the Roman chariots made famous in the film *Ben Hur*. Though it was little more than an armor-plated farm wagon, its performance in battle was spectacular. Tanks were also described in the works of Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, but the first modern tanks did not appear until September 15, 1916, when they joined the arsenals stalemated on the Western Front in World War I.

That morning dawned foggy in the Somme region of France, where the Allied advance had been halted essentially from its beginning more than two months earlier. The British had hoped to launch the assault with more than 100 armored vehicles—"tank" had been stenciled on each shipping crate to assure secrecy—but only 32 problem-plagued tanks were available to cross enemy lines and fire the first shots from mobile armor. Primitive, slow, and awkward, the first tanks were a veritable hell for the eight or so men inside. Squeezed in next to an exposed diesel engine, they found the noise deafening, the heat oppressive. Engine exhaust mixed with the choking stench of cordite from discharged shell casings rolling about underfoot—and the crew struggled all the more to keep their footing in the jolting, suspensionless hulks.

Still, how the excitement and joy of victory must have welled among the troops of the Allied armies as those metal demons crunched over the trenches, through the barbed wire and machine gun nests that had paralyzed their advance. And what terror must have gripped the Kaiser's soldiers. Yet the ultimate impact of this early armor (other than breaking the static front) was not at all profound. The early machines were plagued by breakdowns, blasted apart by artillery, bogged down in craters. One also hears stories of major tank battles on the Marne and elsewhere, but apparently there, too, armor's performance was disappointing. Records from earlier wars also indicate the desire for heavy yet mobile armor. For example, during the Boer War in southern Africa (late 1800s), the British War Ministry commissioned an armored steam locomotive.

This may be a little off the track, but talk of tanks always brings to my mind another set of images: the phalanxes of Philip II of Macedonia. Philip's army was specially trained to fight in unusual box formation, 16 hoplites (infantrymen) to a side. Each square of 256 soldiers comprised a single unit, and the army would advance in checkerboard formations composed of thousands of men. The front rank of troops in the square held their spears outward at waist level, and carried shields as protection against enemy arrows. Not just this impenetrable visage reminds me of the tank, for the *purpose* of these formations was the same: to smash aside enemy infantry and open routes for Philip's devastating cavalry. Incidentally, Philip reportedly supported this army with a gold mine in Thrace. And he needed it: the army cost more than 1,000 gold Talents a year (about $20 to $25 million today). Philip's tactical strategies, and abilities, passed to his son—none other than that "shrewd monster" Alexander the Great.

Nowadays, war is no longer simply a killing affair; we rate weapons in terms of combat strength indicators, replacement costs, and such. As a result, we civilians now have the good fortune of participating in the new, improved model of war. In and age of economic conflict and ultra-direct trace—even of drug wars for some people—we are all participants in a global Cold War that sometimes drives people to their deaths without shedding a drop of blood. We have become combatants simply by virtue of being born. Yet it's fascinating that, in a world like this, the old principle of "sword and shield" remains as effective as ever.

Speaking of spears and shields, it's time we address a subject that brings tears to the eyes of any true tank lover: the anti-tank missile. It's absolutely infuriating to think that one of those inexpensive little weapons can so easily turn a million-dollar tank into shredded scrap. And (as if that wasn't enough) anti-tank helicopters, and airplanes like the Fairchild A10 "Thunderbolt," make the modern battlefield dangerous even for armor. Aside from its complement of "Maverick" anti-tank missiles, the A10 carries a 30mm Gatling-type cannon called the GAU-8 "Avenger." This awesome weapon fires a mixture of high-explosive and depleted-uranium shells the size of milk bottles at a rate of 4,200/minute. A tank struck by an Avenger burst simply disintegrates like a cardboard box. Anti-tank missiles use H.E.A.T. (High Explosive Anti-Tank) warheads to defeat armor. These detonate about a foot from the armor, and a conical depression in their front channels the explosion into a high-speed jet (moving at about six miles/second). The cavity usually has a copper liner to add mass to the jet. A typical weapon can penetrate up to 14 inches of armor plating. Some missiles, like the Bofors "Bill," overfly their target tank by a couple of feet, and fire their shaped-charges downward at about 30 degrees. Thus, such missiles target the thinner armor of the turret.

Tanks attack each other with HEAT rounds, and HESH (High Explosive Squash Heads) and APFSDS (Armor-Piercing, Fin-Stabilized Discarding Sabot) shells. HESH rounds consist of high explosive in a thin steel casing. Upon impact, the HE spreads into a pancake and detonates. Though this

won't penetrate the armor, a shock wave travels through the tank and blasts into its interior a large "scab" of metal, which then ricochets about doing considerable damage. APFS-DS rounds consist of a thin "kinetic penetrator" (resembling a dart) covered with a sabot that stabilizes it inside its delivering cannon barrel. When the round is fired, the sabots fall away and the penetrator rod, usually made of tungsten or depleted uranium, simply punches through the armor because of its great speed and weight, and its small nose.

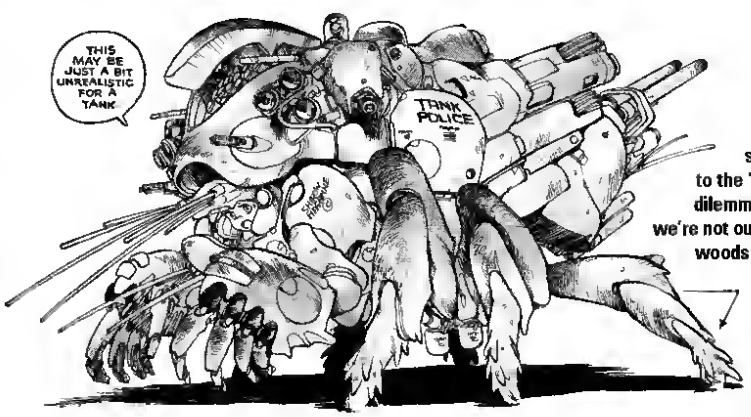
Simply adding armor and increasing size until your tank is a virtual land-going battleship does not work. Hitler's experimental "Maus" tank, built in the closing days of WWII, proved that particular point. The Maus weighed 180 tons, towered six meters high, and had frontal armor a foot thick. But it had a top speed of only 20kph (compared to 80kph for a modern Abrams M1), and was so heavy that merely driving it down a street was enough to crush pavement and topple buildings. This monster was designed by none other than Herr Doktor Porsche, Now, it might be interesting to try building tanks as big as ocean-going ships, and using them as moving bases; I'd love to see a real "Buaku No.1" in action . . . Oh, well. Not much chance of that.

So instead we move to the opposite extreme, and produce the Mini-Tank, able to use every building and wall in the city as extra armor. These are the tactics of the mini-tank, and they could have come straight from a SWAT handbook: • The minute you show yourself is the minute you get shot. • Always have someone covering you • Move only when the enemy can't attack. • So long as you're under fire, stay in the shelter of the closest bit of effective cover.

That's the way the mini-tanks in *Dominion* are designed to fight. In fact, a kind of combat vehicle that springs from the same concept—the combination of a light vehicle and heavy firepower—is already in use today: put a missile launcher on a jeep, have it pop in and out like a gopher. And if it gets blown away, no big loss—it's cheap.

Think back to WWII—at sea, this time: the escalation toward ever more mammoth warships, and the flights of tiny aircraft that wielded such power over them—and the failure of the Japanese Navy, catching on to the changing times too late. The same process, though admittedly on a smaller scale, is happening with our landships. There are practical limits on the penetration power of missiles (the designed attack capability of the weapon, factoring in the enemy's own firing range and ability to inflict punishment). At the same time, it seems the armor of landships has evolved about as far as it can. Reactive armor is one of the latest developments—a number of explosive plates covering especially vulnerable areas of the tank. When hit, this armor explodes outward, disrupting the anti-tank weapon's functions. First developed by the Israelis, such armor is now employed around the world. British "Chobham" armor has also proven effective against a variety of threats. While its exact composition is a closely guarded secret, Chobham armor is believed to consist of several layers of spaced metallic and organic materials. The Soviets have recently fielded ceramic composite armor on their T-80 tanks.

Anti-tank helicopters provide perhaps the ideal launch platform for ATM, and we hardly need mention such well-known aircraft as the "Apache" or the MiL-24 "Hind." The destructiveness of these "flying tanks" will certainly change the very shape of modern armor—perhaps we'll see tanks resembling long-legged crabs, or some other still unimaginable machine with greater mobility than even its airborne stalkers. It may even be possible to apply the air-defense systems of modern navies to the landship. Of course, that would mean more weight, and an inevitable collision with the "Maus" dilemma. Yet even so, if you're going to build a land battleship, I sincerely hope you equip it with a point-defense system. The current primary system for anti-missile defense is the 30mm cannon (like the "Phalanx"). These computer-controlled Gatling guns track incoming missiles with radar and open fire with 80 two-pound shells per second—the intent being to detonate the warheads at a safe distance. Maybe the best strategy is laying down a curtain of steel in the path of incoming missiles like the "Phalanx." Or perhaps the answer lies in anti-anti-tank helicopters? In any case, we can only hope this bogged-down arms race stays a race, without ever being called upon to produce a winner.



One solution to the "Maus" dilemma. Still, we're not out of the woods yet . . .

I don't like bloodshed. With the incredible destructive capabilities of modern offensive weaponry, the best defense is never getting hit in the first place. If opponents are equipped with the same sensory array and the same range (maybe anti-tank helicopters *are* the tank of the future?), then the smaller the tank, the harder it is to hit and the easier to conceal. Which lets me drag the discussion, kicking and screaming, to the subject of landmates (now, don't laugh just yet)...

In the final analysis, tanks overwhelm us with their sheer looks; the authority they bear is enough to tilt the balance of power all by itself. Tanks can easily become a symbol of mammoth power. Too cold to hate, they crush the dreams of others, but rarely create their own (those old Russian war movies of the T-38 platoons tried their best, but...).

"If you think you can defeat me, just you go ahead and try, you pathetic fools! Nyahahaha!" Now, that's the kind of nefarious foolishness that lies behind the real appeal of tanks. But today, when anti-tank helicopters are slaughtering the old kings of the battlefield at a kill ratio of 16-to-1 or more, the laughs tend to ring a bit hollow... and we can take a more level-headed view.

Mini-tank Bonaparte is a perfect example of a tank based on just such laughter. If power is the main text of armor, then laughter is the concealed subtext. I'm not a tank fanatic myself, so I find the subtext easier to digest (I'm not exactly a fan of "objects d'art" either... but you might look at my affection for tanks that way...).

I'm not just talking tanks. I'm fond of foolish inventions, of impenetrably complex machines built for unclear purposes, of intricate clockwork mechanisms, of infernal devices. Mountain climbing begins with the expectations before departure, and includes both the satisfaction of reaching the summit and the many incidents, encounters, partings, discovenes, and frustrations; the joy, the pain, the sadness, and the laughter along the way... As with mountain climbing, I find the route to the top at least as interesting as the final destination.

Far more than birth or death, I find the question of how to live, how to go on from here, to be the most interesting thing (although to be more precise, we should say "how to age" instead of "how to live").

Personally, I far prefer Da Vinci's unworkable airplane modeled on the wings of birds to some curvaceous flying machine that can only take wing with the help of fussy scientific theory. Da Vinci's machine was more honest, and if I have to choose which of the two should actually be able to fly... well, Da Vinci's seems more human. Rather than sweating in some machine with a sour look on my face, I think it's much more dramatic to look up at the sky with a gentle smile and a sigh.

It seems that some people think I'm a bit like one of those horseshoe crabs, all armored in layers of quibbling rhetoric (or maybe more like a female spider, since I never leave my nest). Personally, however, I don't see myself that way. I've got no intention of becoming a champion of "correct" thinking.

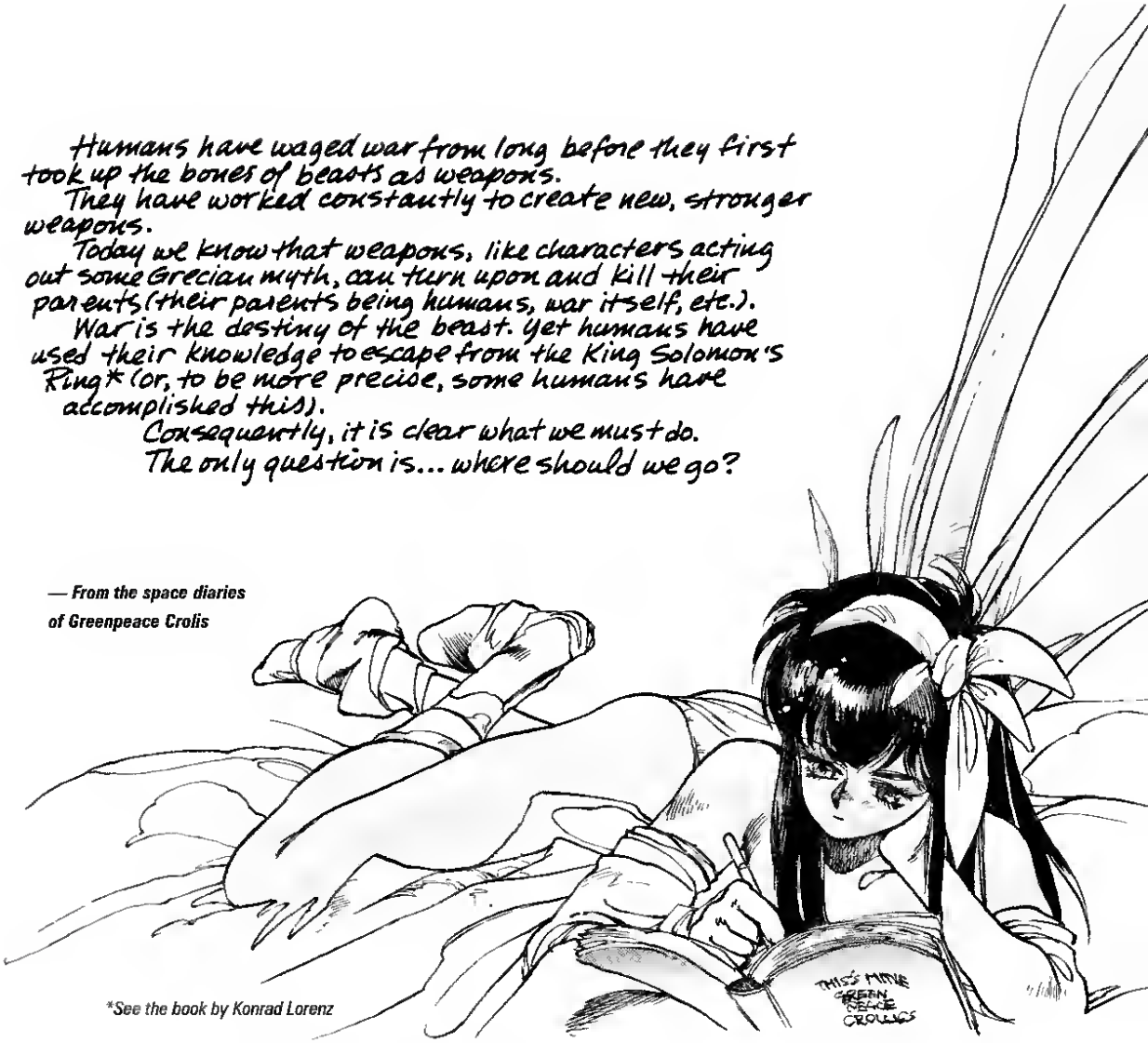
Nor, for that matter, can I see anything to be gained from turning into an "armored fighting vehicle" kind of creator, armor-plated in the latest hot theories (at least, not for me).

Tanks are empty until a human climbs inside. That is both a limitation on them, and an assurance of safety. It's astonishing to think that people were really able to bring such a tool into existence, springing fullborn from their minds like Athena from the brow of Zeus. I just hope they won't be used in the future...

A TANK SIMULTANEOUSLY EMBRACES ALL THESE DIFFERENT POWERS. I JUST WANT YOU ALL TO REMEMBER THAT. THERE'S MORE TO A TANK THAN A FIXATION WITH VIOLENCE!
NOW, LISTEN UP! TANKS ARE ARMED WITH THE POWER OF INTELLECT, THE POWER OF DEATH, PROGRESSIVE POWER, REGRESSIVE POWER, PHYSICAL POWER...
POLICE
LIES, ALL LIES!
"He's too dumb for it anyway!"
IN THIS WAY, YOU *TOO* CAN TURN YOURSELF INTO TANKS, BOYS AND GIRLS!
KONK
ALL RIGHT ALREADY! I *KNOW* MY ESSAYS ARE TOUGH TO UNDERSTAND! I *KNOW* THEY CONFUSE EVERYONE! SO WHAT?!
END
It's not so much an igloo as a scorpion's nest...

Humans have waged war from long before they first took up the bones of beasts as weapons.
They have worked constantly to create new, stronger weapons.
Today we know that weapons, like characters acting out some Grecian myth, can turn upon and kill their parents (their parents being humans, war itself, etc.).
War is the destiny of the beast. Yet humans have used their knowledge to escape from the King Solomon's Ring* (or, to be more precise, some humans have accomplished this).
Consequently, it is clear what we must do.
The only question is... where should we go?

— From the space diaries of Greenpeace Crolis



*See the book by Konrad Lorenz

The potential (spiritual, creative) of the human brain is virtually unlimited. It can imagine anything from gorgeous poetry and beautiful music to armored cavalry divisions, and make them real. The lesson we must never forget is that the sovereignty/governance/responsibility (in short, the dominion) over our own brains lies with each and every one of us.

—*Shirow Masamune*

THE RIVER'S WATER KNOWS NO STOPPING, YET NEVER IS THAT WATER THE SAME. AND THE WATER IN THE RIVER NEVER THINKS "HEY, I'M A RIVER!"... uh-uh, NO WAY.
FOR THAT MATTER, A RIVER IS JUST THE SHAPE OF RUNNING WATER. IT HAS NO REAL EXISTENCE IN ITS OWN RIGHT...
SMAK
How very Zen...!
I CLAP MY HANDS TOGETHER--THIS IS THE MOMENT! RIGHT NOW, INTO THIS INSTANT, MUST FLOW THE ALL. WE CREATE OUR OWN SPACE... YES INDEED WE DO.

士 郎 正 宗

DOMINION™

Welcome to the future, where the norms are vast bio-constructed cities, toxic air, and crime so severe that the cops drive tanks! When a mysterious winged girl with the power to cleanse the poisoned air is kidnapped by the villainous Buaku, police mini-tank commander Leona Ozaki must confront the arch-criminal and his catgirl molls—the beautiful and deadly Annapuma and Unipuma—before Buaku's master plan kicks into gear. Buaku has more than money on his mind, and the future fate of humanity hangs in the balance!

Produced by international comics superstar Shirow Masamune, creator of *Appleseed* and *Ghost in the Shell*, *Dominion* is an ecological-dystopian-police procedural adventure/comedy as only Shirow can create!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DarkHorse.com

DARK HORSE MANGA